

# RAIDERETTE OF THE GAME

*Illora* 4TH YEAR

BY JENNA ANGELO

Illora is in her fourth season with Football's Fabulous Females, and her first season in a leadership role on the team. While she may be new to the co-captain position, she has plenty of practice being a leader in a dance environment. When she is not practicing and performing with her Raiderette sisters, she is teaching dance classes for anyone ages 2-18. She teaches jazz, tap, lyrical, ballet and hip-hop lessons. Illora's students travel to various dance competitions and compete using her choreography. Her dream is to open her own dance studio one day and share her passion for performing with others.

Teaching is something Illora always knew she wanted to do. "When I was younger, I wanted to be a school teacher because I wanted my own desk. Now I'm a dance teacher- still no desk," Illora said. She has always enjoyed working with and teaching children and has been active as a childcare volunteer at her church for many years. She is grateful that being a Raiderette has given her a platform to continue working with young people, "Being a role model to a younger generation has been one of the most rewarding parts of this position," Illora said.

This season Illora is looking forward to all the memories she will make with her teammates on the field, in the locker room, at practice, and of course, traveling internationally to London for the second year in a row. The trip last season was full of fun times that Illora will cherish forever, but it was not her first time in the United Kingdom. In 2013 Illora was invited to perform in London's New Year's Day Parade after winning the Universal Dance Association All American title. This season, Illora is headed across the pond a week ahead of the game with the three other co-captains to connect with the local community and get fans excited about the upcoming game. While mingling with the fans and cheering on the Raiders internationally is exciting, Illora is eager to discover the ins and outs of the city, "I am extremely excited to branch out and explore more of London," Illora said. "With this being my third time going I want to visit all the places where the locals hang out."

When she's all done adventuring through the boroughs of the UK's largest city, she'll get right back to her small town girl roots - hanging out with her three dogs, three chickens and cat, going to work to instill good technique and a passion for dance in her students, and inspiring her Raiderette sisters each and every time she steps out to perform.

