

RAIDERETTE OF THE GAME

Shaniah

5th SEASON

BY JENNA ANGELO

After five seasons with the Raiderettes, Shaniah is well-versed on what it means to be one of Football's Fabulous Females. Walking with a purpose, mastering work-life balance and learning to never give up on herself are just a few of the many traits Shaniah has developed during her tenure with the team. This season, rather than focusing on what she can get from her experience with the Raiderettes, she seems to be more focused on how her Raiderette experience can benefit the team as a whole. As an established veteran and a co-captain, Shaniah is expected to guide her teammates and help hold them accountable for representing what a Raiderette should be. Shaniah doesn't shy away from the role, in fact she gracefully embraces it.

A leadership role isn't exactly new for Shaniah. In high school she was voted by her track team as the most valuable teammate two years in a row and was selected as team captain of her collegiate dance team. Making the team captain position at Sacramento State University even more notable is the fact that she had never danced on a team before attending college. Shaniah took dance classes throughout her life but was more focused on track and team sports growing up.

In addition to being a member of the dance team at Sacramento State, Shaniah got her bachelor's degree in public relations. Being the first in her family to graduate from college is an accomplishment she is most proud of. Shaniah currently works as an executive assistant analyzing reports and evaluating programs to improve business productivity, efficiency and overall organization.

Shaniah's journey with the Raiders began back in 2011 when she first made the team as a rookie. She admits to being a little overwhelmed and did not re-join the team the following year. Shaniah continued taking classes and dancing for other teams in the area before she eventually felt ready to return to Raiderette auditions in 2016. Shaniah's attitude throughout the process never changed, she always stayed positive. "My duty on this team is to be a role model for anyone who has a dream. It's not easy to take a leap of faith and put yourself out there, but I love that as Raiderettes, we are able to use this platform to tell people that you can achieve anything with a little faith and hard work," Shaniah said. "We all face adversity, but you've got to be your own biggest cheerleader and tell yourself that you can do it."

Being an established veteran comes with a responsibility to set the bar and uphold the standard for what a Raiderette should be. With poise, kindness, positive affirmations and humility Shaniah leads by example, demonstrating the values and traditions the Raiderette sisterhood has always held in high regard.

