

RAIDERETTE OF THE GAME

Madyson
3rd YEAR

BY JENNA ANGELO

Madyson has been able to convert some of her family members, who were originally Pittsburgh Steelers fans, to come over to the dark side. It may have taken some time, but now in Madyson's third season with the Raiderettes, her family has fully come around - perhaps Antonio Brown has something to do with it. All jokes aside, Madyson knows her parents are her biggest fans and she says she wouldn't be where she is today without their support.

Madyson is from a small town outside of Fresno, California, called Tulare. She makes the four-hour drive to the bay area for all home games and three practices a week. Despite living the furthest away, Madyson also makes herself available for the majority of the community appearances and events that come up. Madyson was involved in pageantry when she was younger and spent a lot of time doing volunteer work. Some notable organizations she has worked with include the Boys and Girls Clubs of America, Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children. "I love that being a Raiderette has allowed me to continue this hobby of mine [volunteering] on a larger scale," Madyson said. "Being a Raiderette is about a lot more than just cheerleading. We have a platform to influence our communities and a younger generation."

For Madyson, this journey has always been about more than just dance and cheer. When she made the team at 18 years old she had no idea what was ahead of her. "I have learned so many life skills in this role, but the biggest was getting comfortable with public speaking. This skill can carry you down so many different avenues of success," Madyson explained, "Oh! And learning how to put on false eyelashes." In addition to the life skills she's learned, Madyson couldn't foresee the bond she would build with her teammates. From spending nine hours a week practicing together, travelling together to appearances, being in close quarters when emotions are running high on gameday and, in Madyson's case, staying at her teammates' houses when the commute home is too much - not to mention all the hours they spend together socially and in their free time, it's no wonder they build such a bond. In three short seasons, Madyson has made multiple friendships that will undoubtedly last a lifetime. "They're beautiful people on and off the field," she says of her friends.

Madyson has enjoyed every moment of her three seasons with the Raiderettes, but don't think it's over just because of the relocation. Madyson has mentioned auditioning for the Las Vegas team more than once. For now, she'll focus on this season in Oakland and making every last memory count.

