



“In My Own Words”

Raider Marissa Butler

Being a part of the Raider team and being a Grey Beret Raider has been a Phenomenal experience. There were many lessons learned, skills built, dreadful times, and most importantly incredible bonding experiences. When I first started Raiders it was mainly because CSM Collis would ask me every day until the first Raider practice if I was coming, and because my sister wanted to try it, but she wouldn't go on her own. When I first tried it I loved it. This was the fun season, Chantal Guerrero and Alex Woolverton were my platoon leaders and Sarah Williams was the Raider Commander. That summer I went to JCLC and had the opportunity to be in the Raider Platoon. If it weren't for Raiders I would of never had the chance to do all the exciting things we did. The next year I was on the mixed team. I learned that year that our nemesis was Braden River's Mixed team. The excitement I had after beating them in the 5k was overwhelming. Through all of this I was also building relationships with everyone in Raiders, including the coaches. The other half of the year was one of the most dreadful but at the same time most memorable part of raiders. This is the night that could either make you or break you, also known as Turning Grey. The night drags on, you're miserable and all you want is for morning to come so you can be done, and most importantly so you can eat the amazing bacon the Houghtellings provide for us. All the hard work is done, you get to sleep and eat. When you walk across the stage at the award banquet, drop to the push up position, you realize that it was all worth it. As you do the pushup for the "Great Raider" in the sky you know that you did it and you now have the title of a "Grey Beret". The following year, I was on the female state champion team. After months of training, we gave it our all and won a state championship to make the SMA Female team 5 year defending champs. As a team, we ran through the sugar sand, in the fog, half of us not being able to breath. As a team, we became the best female raider team in the state. We also became a very close, tight-knit family. Although there were times when I couldn't stand someone on the team, I love them all to death and I wouldn't trade any of them for anyone. I love those Ratchet girls ;) Without the training of our coaches we wouldn't have been able to be the team we are. To me, Raiders is more than a team of buff, smart (some of us), goofy kids. Raiders is a family that no matter what, will be there. Thank you to CSM Collis, CSM Daly and MSG Browning for teaching me so much and for keeping this team so tight-knit. Raiders has definitely motivated me to be the person I am today. This is my life and this is my family.