

Rachel Mclelland

What made you want to be the masked rider?

00:06

I remember it vividly. It was my first football game as a freshman at Tech. My first time seeing the Masked Rider in person and they ran out, you know, it just takes over the whole stadium. But I looked at my freshman roommate, I said, I'm going to do that. And she said, Oh, okay, crazy, go Go for it. And so I looked into it on the process of applying. I applied as a freshman. I wasn't selected that year. But I did get to become an assistant, which really gave me an incredible look on the ends of the program, and really solidified my decision to then apply as a sophomore. So I applied a second time, and it was so honored to receive the position.

What was it like receiving your masked rider cape and outfit at the transfer of reins?

00:44

It's surreal. I remember standing up there and I've been at fittings. I've tried the cape on. But at this moment, it was final, you know, the last sequin was placed. I had my bolero hat on I had the mask, but to feel kind of the weight of the cape on, kinda you feel the weight of the responsibility but also just how important the position is to Tech and what it means to the community what it means to the Texas Tech University system. And so to kind of finally feel that weight of the cape kind of settled on my shoulders. I said, Okay, this is it. This is my year, and I was so ready for that.

How do you feel about receiving your white coat?

01:23

It still seems unreal. They asked us, okay, what size white coat we submit it. And I said, Okay, you're gonna get it at orientation. And I'm just I'm so excited to have the opportunity to wear a white coat to represent not only my family, but Texas Tech. I love Texas Tech. I'm here for my post grad work. And I'm just so excited to put that on and kind of continue my education as a red raider.

How do you feel about receiving your white coat?

01:49

The white coat signifies it's kind of like the masked rider cape it stands out in a crowd. So with the cape people saw the masked rider said that's Texas Tech. With a white coat I hope people can look to me and say that's someone who will take care of me that's someone who will care for me, and who will be there for me no matter what I need.

Why do you want to become a doctor?

02:09

I've always been interested in medicine. But it really kind of happened in high school as I got older. My grandfather was a US Air Force veteran, and he flew helicopters and also did parachute jumps. And so I saw as he kind of got older, you know, his bones started to feel the effects of everything he had done. And so he got a full ankle replacement. And I saw immediately how that changed his life. He was able to go camping with us, he was able to kind of just be in every aspect of our life. And so I saw the impact

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those doctors had, how much they cared for him how much they changed not only his life, but our family's life and I knew I wanted the opportunity to do that for someone else.

Is there a certain field of medicine that you have a passion for?

02:47

I've always loved orthopedics. I think it's just such a fascinating look at the body. Your bones can tell such a story about kind of who you are, what you've experienced what you've been through. So I love to be able to go into orthopedic surgery, and kind of help people you know, regain their ability to do things like the ortho surgeons helped my grandfather.