

Renowned Sports Guru Shares Interest for Beach Music in New Book

AND THE BANDS PLAYED ON THE HISTORY OF BEACH MUSIC

By Howie Thompson

LITTLE RIVER, S.C. – (Release Date TBD) – Howie “Coach” Thompson is a man for all seasons. He won numerous Awards for coaching, including three consecutive Adidas/NSCAA Regional Coach of the Year awards, two HS and Youth State Sportsmanship Awards, and in 2002 won the Adidas/NSCAA National Coach of the Year Award. No wonder he has been elected to the Who’s Who of American Teachers and Coaches aside from the Who’s Who of Insurance Executives. Having written several sports books, he has also forayed into music literature with his book “Fat Harold: The Legendary King of Shag.” Not resting on his laurels, Thompson follows it up with his newly published book: **And The Bands Played On... The History of Beach Music.**

The book is literary work about a regional musical genre that developed from various musical styles of the '40s, '50s, and '60s. Carolina beach music, as it is sometimes called, has a wide variety of interesting musical styles and influences, ranging from big-band swing instrumentals to the more raucous sounds of blues/jump blues, jazz, doo-wop, boogie, rhythm and blues, reggae, rockabilly, and old-time rock and roll. Beach music is closely associated with the style of the swing dance known as the shag or the Carolina shag, which is also the official state dance of both North Carolina and South Carolina; hence the name.

Knowing full well that his project is not only a literary work, but a legacy, Thompson begins his project by taking the advice of H. Lee Brown—to talk to Billy Scott, whose ears and heart were made for rhythm and blues and beach music. Thompson did pick Scott’s brain for ideas, experiences and invaluable insights which serve as a perfect springboard for his book. From there, he shares stories of legends, friends, the many men and women, and the bands behind the music. He traces where to Roberts Pavilion, it all began and walks readers through the history, while spicing the experience up with interesting photographs and memories.

Well-researched, well-documented, and with many revealing inside stories and personal testimonies, **And The Bands Played On...The History of Beach Music** is a treasure trove of historical facts, musical culture and talents that every beach music aficionado will cherish. For a few others, a sports coach venturing into music and history may seem like probing into foreign territories. However, Thompson shatters that paradigm and once again has proven that he is indeed a man for all seasons.

For more information on this book, interested parties may log on to www.Xlibris.com.

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