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The Marching Band Director: A Master Planning Guide



Synopsis

Raxsdale

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Customer Reviews

1-Star = 0-Stars
My wife and I were marching Chiefs in 1975 under band director and former Chief drum major Richard Mayo, who left the following year to pursue his doctorate. Somehow and for some strange reason, William Raxsdale was hired to take the helm of director in 1976. I cant even guess who was on the interview and selection committee, but they apparently had little to do with the FSU School of Music. This guy was so bad that he turned the entire band against him with his sarcastic and demeaning comments about our well established Marching Chief style and traditions, which he apparently had no respect for. In 1953, Dr. Manley R. Whitcomb of Ohio State University joined the FSU faculty and assumed the position of Director. When Dr. Whitcomb came south, he brought with him a talented young arranger, Charles Carter. This combination began the long tradition of Marching Chiefs as seen on the field today. Whitcomb instituted fast marching tempos, a high step with arm swing known as Chiefs Step, and introduced the concept of marching eight step to five yards. To our dismay, Mr Raxsdale, who showed up to practice in foam green leisure suits replaced our long held and cherished traditions and introduced his preferred corp-style drill, including a glide step popular with many B-Class high schools at the time, basically destroying the Marching Chiefs. Most of us in Kappa Kappa Psi approached the Dean of the school and made it clear that either Raxsdale had to go, or that a majority of the music majors in the Chiefs were going to quit en masse. Fortunately, the Dean agreed with us and this out-of-place "director" was out of a job the following year. In 1977, FSU and Chiefs alumnus, Bentley Shellahamer took over as Director

of the Chiefs and reinstated the traditional Chiefs' style of marching, appreciated by decades of FSU Alumni, and was enjoyed by millions at the 2014 Rose Bowl where the Seminoles won the BCS National Championship. Read about it for yourself at[...]

YEAH HEY EVERYONE BUY THIS BOOK NOW PLEASE BECAUSE MR RAXSDALE IS THE BOMB . COM HE IS THE MAN, HE IS SOO COOL. HE IS THE BEST BAND DIRECTOR IN THE WORLD. HIS BOOK IS AWESOME. IF YOU WANT TO HAVE A GOOD BAND YOU BETTER READ THIS BOOK OR YOU WILL HAVE A BAD BAND. AND NO ONE WANTS A BAD BAND RIGHT? SO BUY THIS BOOK. JARED S.

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