

david h white : bio



After graduating in 1984 from Vanderbilt University (with a major in European History and a minor in Phi Delta Theta), David White accepted a staff position with the Reagan-Bush campaign. After the election, he declined an opportunity to work at the White House – and returned to his hometown of Birmingham. He was then hired as an aluminum salesman for O’Neal Steel. It was a valuable learning experience, but he wasn’t cut out for the steel business. David loved sports, and he was more a man of letters than numbers.

So he moved to Tuscaloosa in August, 1987, and began reporting on Alabama football at a local radio station. He also wrote for *Bama Magazine*, and got a chance to cover the University football and basketball teams extensively. While there, David had the opportunity to interview the likes of coaches Wimp Sanderson and Bill Curry, as well as a number of outstanding football players (including Bobby Humphrey).

In August, 1988, David moved to Chapel Hill, where he covered University of North Carolina Sports for the newsweekly *Carolina Blue*. During a typical week, David would write seven or eight features, then cover Carolina’s games on the weekends. Working closely with editor John Kilgo, David learned a number of writing techniques, including how to pace a story, and how to analyze clearly. This was the place where White wrote his first human interest pieces, digging beyond sports into the lives of underprivileged athletes.

From there he moved to the *Durham Morning Herald*, where the deadlines were tight and the pressure to deliver was both challenging and rewarding. David’s high school and college sports coverage took him to a number of small towns, where stories had to be phoned-in, and phones weren’t always easy to find. Yet with every piece, his writing grew stronger.

In 1990, David returned to Birmingham to work for the *Birmingham News*, and then the *Birmingham Post-Herald*, until 2005. He then joined the bi-weekly *Over the Mountain Journal*, where he was honored with an Alabama Sports Writers Association “Best Feature Story” award.

In 2004, David published his first book, *Leadership Lessons for Life*, a regional best-seller that examined 46 of the top high school football coaches in the state of Alabama. He traveled 4,500 miles throughout Alabama and Georgia, interviewing each coach personally.

In December of 2007, David published his second book: *Shorty: A Life In Sports*, a biography of high school football coaching legend George “Shorty” White, who won three Alabama state championships in 14 years at Birmingham’s Banks High School, then coached running backs for Paul “Bear” Bryant at Alabama.

A Man of Character, David’s first novel, was published in May of 2009. He is currently promoting his fourth book, *A Stroke Of Genius*.

David lives in Birmingham with his wife, Beth and his two daughters, Isabelle and Fairbanks. He is an avid golfer with an eight handicap.