Latshaw decides to stay put at Wilmington CC

Paul Latshaw will not return to Pittsburgh's Oakmont Country Club but will instead remain as head superintendent at Wilmington (Del.) Country Club.

Latshaw, the only superintendent to host three of professional golf's four major championships, informed Oakmont officials in late October that he would not return to the post he held at the Pitts-

burgh course from 1975 to 1987, said Oakmont General Manager Pat LaRocca. He had been expected to return to Oakmont around Jan. 1.

"Paul just said he changed his mind," LaRocca said. "We're disappointed. But we're very happy with the new superintendent we've hired."

Mark Kuhns, who spent the last

12 years as head superintendent at Laurel Valley Golf Club in Ligonier, Pa., will take over at Oakmont in early 1991, LaRocca said.

Latshaw hosted the 1978 PGA Championship and 1983 U.S. Open while at Oakmont. He was also head superintendent at Augusta National, site of the Masters, from 1987 to 1989. He assumed the Wilmington post in May of ast year.

Oakmont is the scheduled site of the 1992 women's U.S. Open and the 1994 men's Open.

The opportunity to be head superintendent at the site of a major championship was one of the reasons Latshaw was reported interested in the Oakmont post.

A telephone call to Latshaw was not returned.

courses

American Golf buys two Ca

American Golf Corp. has bought the 27-hole Desert Princess Country Club in Cathedral City, Calif., and the 18-hole Dominguez Golf Course in Carson, Calif. The private Desert Princess CC has three nine-hole layouts — the Lagos, Cielo and Vista courses. Its facilities include a driving range, lap pool, jacuzzi, weight and exer-

cise room, two racquetball courts and 10 lighted tennis courts.

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Dominguez Golf Course will be renovated to become a state-of-theart practice center, with improvements to both the course and range.

Group lesson, short-game practice facilities and teaching aids will be expanded by the Santa Monica, Calif., company.

NEWS

Cleveland facility opens

National Golf Operations, Inc. has announced completion of the Airport Greens Golf Course and Practice Range Facility in Cleveland's eastern suburbs.

The facility has been in the planning stages for 15 years, originally beginning with a nine-hole layout and practice range, and evolving into a 6,000-plus-yard par 70 course that combines links character with water and wooded fairways.

Built on land owned by Cuyahoga County, it is located in two counties — Lake and Cuyahoga — and two municipalities — Willoughby Hills and Highland Heights.

The facility has been leased from the county for 40 years by Dick LaConte and family, who also own Parkview Golf Center in adjacent Mayfield Village. Four generations of LaContes are involved, from Pat LaConte, chairman of the board, then son Dick LaConte, with his sons Gary and Larry, and 10 great-grandchildren.

The practice facility is a "super range" consisting of an area to accommodate 100 tees for practice and instruction. It includes grass tees, Astro-turf artificial tees, water hazards, bunkers, sidehill, uphill and downhill teeing areas, enclosed heated teeing areas, and full lighting for evening use.

Delray Beach hires manager

Gerecter & Dubin Associates, Inc. of Delray Beach, Fla., has been retained to manage that community's Municipal Golf Course, according to City Manager David Harden.

The contract is structured to allow the city to regain control of the course for the first time since 1985.

In addition to managing the course's everyday activities, Gerecter & Dubin is responsible for initiating major improvements to the golf course operation.

"The challenge at hand," said John Gerecter, president of Gerecter & Dubin, "isto restore the golf course layout to the levels of condition required and expected by the golfing public — within the limits of time restrictions, growing seasons and regular public use of the course."

Designed by Donald Ross, the 7,040-yard, par 72, championship course was built in 1924. It plays approximately 85,000 rounds of golf per year.

Hills' Southwest office moved

Arthur Hills and Associates' Western office has been relocated to Mesa. Ariz.

The new address is 1745 South Alma School Road, Suite 155, Mesa 85210; 602-820-4684.





