

Pa. Turf Council elects Zedreck

WEXFORD, Pa. — Michael P. Zedreck, superintendent at Pittsburgh Field Club, has been elected president of the Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council (PTC), succeeding Samuel R. Snyder VII of Hercules Country Club in Nottingham.

A former president the Greater Pittsburgh GCSA board of directors, Zedreck had been re-elected to a three-year term as director of the PTC in the previous elections. He previously served a superintendent at Southpointe Golf Club in Canonsburg, where he oversaw construction, and at Butler (Pa.) Country Club. A certified golf course superintendent, he serves on the U.S. Golf Association Green Section Committee.

Mission Hills' super says being a golfer helps

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ladies. I play golf and my assistant, Nancy Dickens, plays golf. So we have a good feel for what the players like."

Judging from their comments, Johnson and his staff know how to keep the LPGA happy.

"There are other courses

that are as well conditioned in certain years," said Beth Daniel, "but year in and year out, Mission Hills is the best."

"Always a joy to play," agreed a fellow competitor. "They obviously have a great deal of pride in their course."

"The tees, fairways and greens were great," raved

Suzanne Strudwick. "They always are."

Golf Course News has conducted its annual Best Conditioned Course survey since 1992, rotating each year between the PGA, Senior and LPGA tours. Desert courses don't routinely score well in the eyes of players, but Mission Hills is the exception.

Further, Mission Hills' excellence is underlined by the scope of its maintenance demands. Three are three courses at the Palm Springs resort: The Desmond Muirhead-designed Tournament course, the Palmer Course and the Pete Dye Course.

Johnson is director of maintenance for all three tracks. However, he said the award would not have been attainable without help from Dickens, the first assistant and superintendent for the Tournament course; Raul Rodriguez, service manager for equipment; assistant superintendent Felix Milward; foreman Pablo Lua; and General Manager Tom Catanzarite.

"I guess if you're watching on TV and listening for comments, you'll hear about the smoothness of our greens," said Johnson. "There's just no grain in them by the time we get done with them... I think all LPGA events have the same standards. But ours being a major, we have the advantage of having longer rough and faster greens than what they might have for a regular event.

"Also, the weather is nice in March. Everything is growing. It's the perfect time for us to host a tournament, and we take a lot of pride in trying to be the best."

Keen observers of the LPGA scene may notice a few changes during this year's tournament.

Johnson and his staff have reconfigured some of the bunkers ("They had lost their natural shape"), rebuilding some of the fingers Desmond Muirhead had originally designed.

"Also, we took out some trees to get more sunlight in weaker areas," said Johnson.

But don't expect too much change. The course will play as it always does: The common Bermuda fairways will play firmly, just as they did last year when Patty Sheehan walked away with the title; the grainless greens — 328 Bermuda, overseeded with Majestik Rye — will again be cut at 3/32.

And the players will rave.

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