

# Big Moves at Top Courses

LATSHAW LEAVING OAK HILL FOR MUIRFIELD; MCBRIDE JOINING NICKLAUS DESIGN

By Larry Aylward, Editor

**P**aul B. Latshaw wasn't looking, but opportunity came knocking — in the form of Jack Nicklaus and Muirfield Village GC.

Latshaw, fresh off hosting the PGA Championship at Oak Hill CC in Pittsford, N.Y., in mid-August, accepted Nicklaus' offer to become superintendent at Muirfield Village in Dublin, Ohio, shortly after the PGA. Nicklaus designed and built Muirfield, his dream course, in the early 1970s.

Latshaw, 37, left Oak Hill, the historic Donald Ross design, after almost five years. He will replace Mike McBride, who had been superintendent at Muirfield for the past 18 years. McBride will continue to work for Nicklaus as an agronomist with Nicklaus Design.

Latshaw, who enjoys the thrill of hosting top golf tournaments, will get to do so every year at Muirfield with the Memorial Tournament, one of the most popular tournaments on the PGA Tour.

"The big thing that's intriguing is the opportunity to work with the Nicklaus organization," Latshaw said. "Jack Nicklaus was one of my boyhood idols.



MARY CORCORAN

**Paul B. Latshaw loves the thrill of hosting big tournaments, something he'll get to do at Muirfield Village every year.**

The Memorial is a first-class event."

The opportunity to join Muirfield surfaced a few days after the PGA Championship ended on Aug. 16. Latshaw said he wasn't looking for a new job, but he couldn't turn down the offer to join Nicklaus. He joined Muirfield in September.

In a press release, Nicklaus said he was impressed with Latshaw's ability to groom turf.

"I spoke to several players who were in the PGA field, and to a person, they remarked on the fantastic condition of

the golf course at Oak Hill," Nicklaus said. "August is one of the most difficult times of year for turf management, so to hear such high praises of Oak Hill is a true compliment to Paul's ability."

Nicklaus said McBride's talent will come in handy with possible renovation projects at other Nicklaus courses. McBride, who has worked at Muirfield since 1982 and helped build the course while he was in college, said he looks forward to "a fresh" start as an agronomist with Nicklaus Design. "It's time to move on, and I look forward to doing something a little different," said the 49-year-old, who will set up a home office in the Dublin area.

Nicklaus said McBride's new position allows him to grow as a person.

"The design of a golf course and its agronomic demands go hand-in-hand," he said. "At the same time, a significant number of our older projects are exploring the need to renovate their courses, so Mike's input on that process will be invaluable."

Jeff Corcoran replaces Latshaw at Oak Hill. Corcoran was previously the superintendent at Weston (Mass.) GC. He worked as an assistant to Latshaw at Oak Hill for three years in the late 1990s.

## Are Women Welcomed at Your Course?

**W**ho better to address the issue of women's golf than a woman, specifically Nancy Berkley. She explores the issue in her new book, *Women Welcome Here! A Guide to Growing Women's Golf*, published by the National Golf Foundation.

As you've heard time and again, women participation is vital to growing golf, which is crucial for the overall health of the industry. Too many women take up golf and quit. The trick is getting them to keep playing.

In the book, Berkley provides the insights needed for capturing women golfers and keeping them golfing. The book helps answer the question, "Are women welcomed here?" It offers tips as to how a golf course can make sure it's doing all it can to attract women and make them feel comfortable.

In the book's introduction, Suzy Whaley, head golf professional at Blue Fox Run GC in Avon, Conn., writes



that women are not as physically strong as men and therefore their power and distance are limited.

"This, however, does not mean that women

cannot play the game well or enjoy it as much as men," Whaley states. "As golf professionals, we must be willing to take the time to educate women."