

Bailey retains City golf crown

By RICK BROWN

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If you don't have fun playing golf, Al Bailey figures, there's no reason to see it up in the first place.

And Bailey had a whale of a time at Waveland Sunday, adding a one-under 1 to a qualifying 70, then carding an even-par 36 on his last tour around the back nine to win the 80th annual Men's City golf championship. His three-under-par total of 177 gave him

a four-shot victory over the threesome of Tom Sandie, Mike McCoy and Brad Peck.

"It was fun last year, but it was even more fun this time," bubbled Bailey, who became the first back-to-back champion since Sarg Fontanini did it nearly 30 years ago, in 1953 and '54.

"I'm in good company if I did what he did," said the 37-year-old Bailey, a sales representative for Titleist. "When I grow up I want to be just like Sarg. I guess this gets me one step closer, but I'm not there yet."

Fontanini, more than 30 years Bailey's elder, has won three city titles in his illustrious career and was tournament contestant again this year.

Bailey had a four-shot bulge at the end, but it's a bit deceiving because his one wasn't in the bag until he stood on the 18th tee for the final hole of the tournament. By then, a day that had a wet beginning had given way to sunny skies.

Bailey started the day tied with



Al Bailey
Duplicates Fontanini feat

Chris Donielson and Frank Sanders at 70, and played the back side in one-under 35. But Donielson, the No. 1 man on Iowa State's team this spring, sizzled with a three-under 33 that put him five under for the tournament. Tom Sandie, a runner-up last year to Bailey and one of the city's top players, started the day at even par and got it to two under with nine holes remaining after a 70.

It looked like a three-way dogfight with nine holes left. Donielson was

three over on the front for a round of 72, while Bailey put the finishing touches on a 71 and Sandie stayed close with his 70. Bailey was three under for the tournament, while Sandie and Donielson were just one swing back. Sanders had shot himself out of contention with a 77.

A balky putter eliminated Donielson quickly. He bogeyed the first three holes on the back side, then four-putted the par-3 13th for a double bogey. He finished with a 43 and a tie for eighth.

"I just flat choked," Chris said.

Bailey's lead jumped to two shots when Sandie bogeyed the demanding par-3 10th. Sandie soon got that back with a birdie at 11th, and Bailey three-putted for a bogey that left them tied.

Bailey, who used a 42-inch shaft in his putter last year to fight the yips, used a conventional model this year and bounced back quickly from that three-putt.

After Sandie burned the edge of the cup on the par-5 12th from 15 feet, Bailey made a downhill 12-footer for birdie, putting his hand over his heart in thanks after it fell. On the next hole, Bailey's 35-foot birdie attempt scorched the right edge of the cup, then he made a breaking six-footer on the 14th for par. Sandie, meanwhile,

CITY GOLF

Please turn to Page 2S