

Bailey Fires 67, Wins Shriners Pro-Am Title

BY JOHN HUSAR

[Reprinted from yesterday's late editions]

Al Bailey once had a problem — whenever he'd make a birdie, he'd almost always bogey the next hole.

That was once upon a time, however, as the youthful Illinois Open champ pounded out five birds without a miscue yesterday for a three-stroke victory in the Du Page Shriners Pro-Am at Itasca Country Club.

Bailey, in fact, was confidently shooting for a birdie on his final hole in hopes of tying the course record set by his head pro at Sunset Ridge, Bobby Harris. He missed, settling for a par and a five under 67 that left him thinking in terms of trying the pro tour next fall.

In second with a 70 was Frank Witt of Cress Creek, who drove the lush, 6,573-yard course well, keeping himself in middle and short iron range, from where he scored four birdies. Chuck Malchaski of Pro Golf Range had a hot putter for a 71.

Bailey has a couple of theories about his erratic pattern. "For two years I kept a chart of every round I played," the 25-year-old assistant pro said. "And it showed me making bogeys after about 70 percent of my birds. I found that after a birdie hole, you usually encounter a tough hole. But, too often, I suppose I was just trying too hard to protect my birdie."

He said experience has given him the confidence to forget about "being cozy" and simply played the holes one by one.

Shriners Pro-Am

- 67—Al Bailey, Sunset Ridge, 35-32.
70—Frank Witt, Cress Creek, 34-36.
71—Chuck Malchaski, Pro Golf Range 35-36.
72—Bob Harris, Sunset Ridge, 37-35;
Felice Torza, Aurora, 38-34.
73—Emil Esposito, Brookwood, 38-35;
Larry Rouse, Ruth Lake, 36-37; Charlie Tawse, La Grange, 38-35; Ed Oldfield, Glen View, 37-36.
74—Tony Holguin, Fair Winds, 38-36;
George Capoun, Inverness, 36-38.
75—Ron Bakich, Oak Park, 38-37; Gus Bernardoni, Lake Shore, 39-36; Lou Carter, Hillcrest, 38-37.
76—Bob Henning, Exmoor, 39-37.

That's what he did yesterday, altho it took him awhile to get started.

Evidently recovered from a siege of palsy that had paralyzed one side of his face a month ago, Bailey struggled thru 12 holes before catching fire. Then he had four birds in a six-hole stretch, thanks to a combination of good shortirons and bold putting.

Another well-known figure had a good putting stretch, altho it didn't help his team's final score. Gov. Richard D. Ogilvie, making a rare golfing appearance, had three pars in four holes, but his team wound up last with a double best-ball total of 135. The winning team, captained by Emil Esposito of Brookwood, posted a 25-under-par 119.