

To make matters worse, a 40 mph northwest wind greeted golfers in the first round. Those first-round scores are legendary. The 150 players made just 138 birdies. Just 81 golfers broke 80.

Nicklaus had an 81, leaving him tied with Bailey after the first round.

"The 81 I shot was awfully good," Bailey said. "It was much better than the 77 I had in the second round."

Bailey missed the 36-hole cut and returned home to watch the final two rounds on television.

Nicklaus made the cut with a second-round 72 and finished in a tie for 51st. Wolff had the low round of the tournament, a 67, in the second round and tied for 18th.

"It was an experience that not a lot of people have, and it would have been nice to make the cut," Bailey said. "But it was more of an accomplishment just being there."

Bailey said he plans to watch this year's tournament on television, and he is sure it will bring back memories of his trip to American golf's showcase event.

"When I shoot 80 now, the guys I play with rib me," Bailey said. "They say, 'Did you really play in the Open?'"

# Bailey recalls his try at Open in Minnesota

By RICK BROWN

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CHASKA, MINN. — Jack Nicklaus, Hale Irwin and Al Bailey have combined to win seven U.S. Open golf championships.

Irwin, the defending champion, has three Open titles. Nicklaus has won four times. That leaves Bailey with his hands empty.

But, in 1970, the last time the U.S. Open was played at Hazeltine, the three men shared experiences that are still deposits in Bailey's memory bank.

"I tell guys that if it wasn't for me, Irwin might have won four Opens by now," joked Bailey, who lives in Des Moines and is a salesman for a golf equipment company.

Bailey was an assistant pro at Sunset Ridge in Northridge, Ill., when he qualified for the Open in 1970. Just getting into the Open is a story that sounds like fiction.

Bailey had to birdie the final hole of the 36-hole sectional qualifier at Cog Hill near Chicago to get in a playoff for the final spot. The hole was a par-3, and Bailey looked to erase his chances when his tee shot went 15 yards left of the green into trees.

But he holed out his second shot to become the 13th man in a playoff for four qualifying spots. Irwin was one of the first players eliminated in the playoff. So was Jack Rule, formerly of Waterloo.

Bailey and Randy Wolff, a professional from Texas, were deadlocked for a final qualifying spot after four holes when darkness forced them to return the next morning. Wolff won on the fifth hole with a birdie. But Bailey got into the Open when 1955 champion Jack Fleck withdrew.

Bailey played in one of the most infamous Opens. Players complained about conditions on a course that was less than 10 years old. Too many dogleg holes, too many blind shots, greens that sloped to the back, making it impossible to hold shots.