

# Spray Makes Cut, Bailey Misses

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CHASKA, Minn. — Strange things were happening in the U. S. Open Friday.

For example, Al Bailey broke his driver hitting a 240-yard tee shot, then four-putted the final green for an 81-77—158 to miss the cut by five strokes and went home to Cedar Rapids.

The man who beat Bailey in one of the strangest U. S. Open qualifying playoffs in history, Randy Wolff of Beaumont, Texas, tied the Hazeltine course record Friday with a five-under-par 67 to tie for third with 145. Sharing that spot was another obscure pro, Dick Crawford.

The hurricane that kited scores in Thursday's opening round subsided completely Friday, but a fresh windstorm blew up when Dave Hill unleashed another blast at the way architect Robert Trent Jones had designed the greens at this vast 7,141-yard layout.

Although Arnold Palmer, Jack Nicklaus and Gary Player barely survived the 36-hole cut with 153s, the defending champion, ex-army sarge Orville Moody, missed it with 79-77—156. It wasn't so unusual, maybe. He was the fifth defending champion since 1963 to miss the cut.

Steve Spray, the Indianola golfer who plays out of Cedar Rapids, shot a commendable 74 Friday despite more trouble from his ailing left wrist. He bogied the last two holes, his tee shots into the rough costing him both times.

Steve said the wrist, first injured in the Memphis Open and reinjured when he hit a one-iron Thursday, bothered him mostly

on short chip shots. Spray has 78-74—152, 11 shots off the pace.

Although this is a giant course in the land of legendary Paul Bunyan, the most effective golf was being shot by comparatively little men. Tony Jacklin, the slender Englishman, continued his sub-par play with a 70 and widened his lead to three shots with a 141. Dave Hill, not much wider than a two-iron, had 75-69—144 in second place.

While Hill continued to bad-mouth the course, Jacklin smiled and said he liked the layout. Wolff is the man who really fell in love with it, though — especially on a seven-hole stretch on the back nine.

Wolff, 25, started out Friday with 10 straight pars. But then he heated up and birdied five of the next seven holes to tie the record of 67 set by Bob Berwey,

Gary Player's brother-in-law, in the 1967 Minnesota Classic.

Bailey's driver broke on the 12th hole Friday, so he had to tee off with a three-wood on the long holes the rest of the way.

"The head of the driver flew 50 or 60 yards," Bailey said, "and I was so stunned I didn't even know where the ball went. But it carried 240 yards."

Bailey would have been sorely disappointed if the four-putt green on No. 18 had cost him the chance to make the cut. His approach shot settled onto the green right next to the collar of grass at the edge. He was about 100 feet from the pin. His putter caught the tuft of grass and left him 15 feet short. He went four feet past and missed coming back.

## Pass the Hash

Al Bailey, Cedar Rapids golfer playing out of Winnetka, Ill., was disappointed with his opening 41-40—81, but said he rarely had hit the ball better. "This is some of the best golf I've played," he said, pointing out it's a tough course with the added problem of the wind. "I think it's a good course, however. I never could get a birdie putt to drop, but I had five or six that were 10 feet or less. I had two double bogies — one on No. 7 where I had trouble reaching the green and No. 15 where I three-putted. I still hope to make the cut if I can shoot better tomorrow. If the course plays the same way Friday, 156 or 157 might make it." Bailey's estimate was borne out by the statistics. Of the first 93 golfers finishing, only 45 broke 80. And he wasn't in bad company with Nicklaus also shooting 81.

● Steve Spray, the other former Iowan in the field, said he wouldn't decide until Friday morning whether he could continue. "I hurt my left wrist at Memphis," he said, "and I've had tendonitis ever since. It got real bad last week. I thought it was better, then I hurt it when I hit a No. 1 iron into the ground on the eighth hole today. I was two over par at the time, and it hurt frequently after that. I had trouble especially in chipping. The last time my wrist was hurt this bad I had to quit the next day because it got so stiff. I'm hoping I can continue Friday." Steve shot 40-38—78 and probably would have to do at least that well Friday to make the cut unless the weather conditions improve.

## Pass the Hash

Al Bailey admitted he was nervous Wednesday, so he finished his three-day practice by playing 27 holes. "I shot about 74 or 75 on my best 18-hole round," said the former Cedar Rapids player who lost out in a gruelling qualifying test and then got in as a replacement for Jack Fleck. "I'll take two rounds like that Thursday and Friday and I'll make the cut."

Each pro who plays in the Open gets \$500, and every pro who makes the 36-hole cut is assured of at least \$800. Bailey said his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Bailey of C.R., are coming up to watch him. He has seen several other friends from C.R., including Ken Helming, brother the Hazeltine greens-keeper. "I haven't had any heart flare-ups since the qualifying round last week," said Bailey.