

# Tour hopeful Bailey captures

## Ill. Open golf; Hirsch 2d

There isn't a golf professional worth his salt if he doesn't believe that he can make it "or could have made it" on the tour.

Al Bailey, at 24 years of age, is one of the young ones who will not be satisfied until he tries it.

Pushing toward that goal Al made an impression on the Illinois Section of the Profes-

sional Golfers Assn. and the top amateurs in the area when he won the Illinois Open Friday. He had a 54-hole score of 211 to beat amateur Joel Hirsch by a stroke.

An assistant for the past three years at the Sunset Ridge Country Club, Al has been under the care and tutelage of his boss Bob Harris who at one time also answered the urge to

try the bigtime show. Bailey does it the first week in Arizona at the PGA Qualifying School and tournament that now grants tour participation.

A national collegiate champion back in 1948 at San Jose State, Harris was third in the Houston Open in 1957 and second three times in Tucson and Arizona opens in the early 60s. He also holds five course records in the Chicago area.

on the last 18 at Prestwick. He had four birdies going out, one on a par-5 hole, one on a par-3 and two on the 5th and 8th holes which are par-4s. His round read 32-39-71.

Hirsch made his good drive for the title with five birdies and only one bogey, at the 14th where he three-putted. His closing 68 followed rounds of 73 and 71 and was the best of the tourney. The only other player to beat par for the distance was veteran pro Bill Ogden of the North Shore Country Club at 215.

the interim and finally concluded with Thursday and Friday rounds.

Prestwick needs distance and placement, and Bailey beat par each day for the top prize. He scored 70-70-71-211 to make it 5-under par for the tourney.

In second place on the first day after John Sloan of Butterfield had put a 69 on the board, Bailey had another 70 Thursday to take the lead. On the final round he had six birdies, three bogeys and a double-bogey in a scrambling round that was just enough to make it past Hirsch.

On two days earlier this month, Bailey won his spurs to advance in the PGA "finals" by qualifying sixth at the Cog-Hill Dubsdread course over another 54 holes.

The PGA now puts similar groups from around the country in one boiling pot of 60 players for the Nov. 1-7 "school" that not only includes a 72-hole contest but a drill of rules and techniques in the game.

Before Bailey came to work for Harris, he had played lots of amateur golf in his hometown of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and in 1965 represented that city in the National Public Links tournament. He went to the semifinals before bowing out.

Bailey won with a fast start

Just working day-in-and-out with a man like Harris — and continually talking golf — has to rub off. And Bailey has played successfully with Harris in the last three seasons in the regular weekly pro-ams.

After a successful outing at Cog-Hill's Dubsdread, Harris said of Bailey: "He has the ingredients of a fine game. Good length and direction off the tee and an improving putter."

Bailey needed all of that to win the much-delayed Illinois Open that began back on Sept. 14. But it couldn't be completed then because of rain, was rescheduled two other times and also postponed in