

SECTION
B
Thursday
July 30, 1987
Seattle Post-Intelligencer

Sports

Longacres charts B4
Scoreboard B6
Business B8

Indiana's newest hoop legend just starting out at 15

Damon Bailey is trying hard to be just another kid. Since Bobby Knight revealed him to the world, however, Bailey is roaring through adolescence like a midnight freight train.

The first freshman ever to make Indiana's All-State basketball team, Bailey has a face still baby enough to start a fight between cereal-commercial producers. He wears goofy kid shorts,

likes the music of Bon Jovi, makes sure he takes all locker room teasing before dishing any back, and always deflects praise toward his teammates.

But little things give him away. He talks sometimes as if he is already looking back on his childhood: "I'm out here to play ball and have fun with the kids."

He roams the basketball court the way Willie Mays roamed center field; his grace and skill make the playing area seem smaller, and the difficult becomes easy.

Bailey is 15 going on 25. In the bestselling book, "Season on the Brink," author John Feinstein quotes the Indiana University coach talking to his assistants about the 6-foot-2 Bailey, then an eighth-grader: "He's better than any guard we have right now. I don't mean potentially better, I mean better."

Perhaps Knight was trying to shame his own guards. Probably, he was already recruiting Bailey, whom he has scouted personally four or five times in junior high. The comment apparently groused in Bailey no more than a blink and a smile.

"I WAS REAL SURPRISED and honored that I was mentioned," said Bailey this week at Bellevue High School, where he and his top-seeded Indiana prep all-star teammates easily won opening games in the week-long AAU national 15-and-under tournament. "But it doesn't affect me one way or another. I know I'm not as good as any other guard at Indiana. I hope one day to be as good as any guard he's got, but I have a lot of things to work on."

About the only basketball element lacking in Bailey, who has been the national tournament's MVP three years running and has lost only one AAU game in four years, is flamboyance. No one is likely to nickname him Flamin' Damon. This is no ghetto legend. Bailey is of the classic Indiana breed: disciplined, clever, make the pass, forget the flash.

However, unlike Hoosier All-American Steve Alford, the most current comparison, Bailey can jump and run. Alley-oop passes to Bailey at the rim are regular features in the AAU club's offense. One in-bounds play simply calls for the passer to lob the ball in the middle of the key and let Bailey go find it. Swatted shots are ordinary gems in his defense.

The one concession to stardom Bailey makes is entourage. No less than eight family members and friends traveled here from Heltonville, Ind., which is just a few three-pointers from French Lick, home of another small-town Indiana folk hero.

"Actually, this is the smallest group we've had," said Red Taylor, the Indiana team coach. "Damon's (traveling) family usually is lots bigger than this."

In the middle of a knot of Hoosiers in the Bellevue bleachers was Bailey's mother, Beverly. A former Heltonville cheerleader, Beverly unleashed feverish, frequent bursts of applause as an inadvertent metronome, keeping the group's claps in simultaneous rhythm.

"I DON'T THINK ANYTHING about the pressure on Damon," Beverly said in a tone suggesting the question was a bit silly. "You just ignore it, and go on day at a time. His dad (father Wendell) couldn't make the trip) takes care of any problems" about runaway egos.

Bailey is packing along help besides his family. Eric Montross is a 6-11 teammate and lightning rod for some of the hype that would otherwise hit Bailey. At 15, Montross moves remarkably well and seems several years ahead of most big men in physical development and court skills. A high school sophomore-to-be, Montross has already heard from nearly 50 colleges.

Montross is visible, but Bailey is the target for every teen-age streetballer in the country.

"In high school and out here, I take a lot of cheap shots and a lot of elbows," he said. "Kids are always talking to me. But that's part of it."

"It's a big compliment to me. If they're gunning for me, that must mean I'm better than they are."

He is. While Knight's assertion is silly exaggeration, Damon Bailey is a name destined to be a part of basketball culture for the next two decades. To reward Knight for helping make him a man before he was done being a boy, the least Bailey could do is show up in 1990 wearing Kentucky blue.

■ Art Thiel is a staff columnist who writes three times a week in the P-I. John Owen is on vacation.

Top scores

American League			
Boston	6	California	5
Toronto	5	Oakland	4
Chicago	4	Kansas City	0
Detroit	0	New York	4

National League			
San Diego	5	Houston	3
Cincinnati	15	Atlanta	5
Philadelphia	4	New York	6
Pittsburgh	3	St. Louis	4

Majors roundup, Page B3

Quote

Rocky Bleler, former Pittsburgh running back, on the supreme confidence of Steeler Coach Chuck Noll:

He's the only man I know who bought a plane before he learned to fly.



Art Thiel

It's Twins for Davis — 2 homers

By Scott Anderson
P-I Reporter

The Seattle Mariners hit Minnesota starter Mike Smithson hard yesterday at the Kingdome. So hard, in fact, they knocked him clear to Portland.

A pair of two-run homers by first baseman Alvin Davis and a solo shot by right fielder Mike Kingery backed up the pitching of left-hander Lee Guetterman (9-2) in the Mariners' 8-3 victory over the AL West leaders. An afternoon crowd of 14,320 watched as the M's used 10 hits to win their second straight and move within five games of the division-leading Twins.

Smithson, who had been 5-0 against

Seattle 8 Minnesota 3

the M's going back to 1984, gave up seven earned runs in five innings. The 6-foot-8 righty (4-6, 6.17 ERA) was told afterward he was being sent down to Portland, the Twins' Triple-A affiliate in the Pacific Coast League.

"I feel about the same as if somebody told you your mother had died," he said of the demotion.

"Mike is tough, but we hit the mistakes he put up there," said Guetterman, who also stands 6-8. "He didn't

have his good stuff. He got it up where Alvin could mash it out of here."

Guetterman was once again the recipient of good offensive production from his mates. The club had scored an average of 5.73 runs per game in Guetterman's previous 11 starts. After yesterday, it's up to 5.92.

"It helps me know all I've got to do is my job," said Guetterman. "There's no added pressure like, 'Oh, no, we're gonna get shut out.' But I don't know if you can count on run-scoring every day."

Guetterman went eight innings and scattered 10 hits. He would have preferred a chance to go for the complete game. But Edwin Nunez

pitched the ninth, striking out two of the three Twins he faced, for his 11th save.

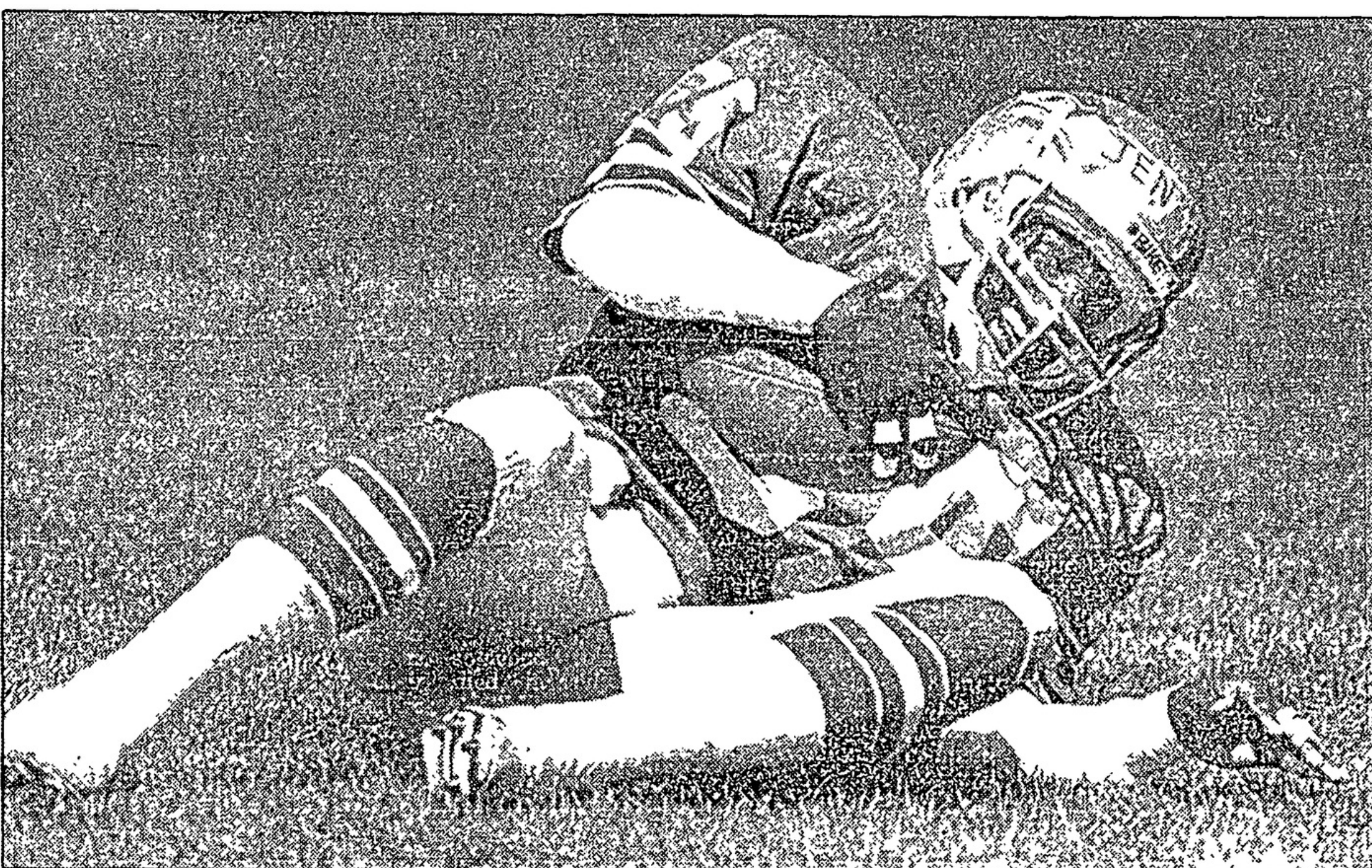
"When you get that close, you really want to go all the way," Guetterman said. "The competitiveness really comes out. I wished I could have pitched the ninth, but (Manager) Dick (Williams) knows what he's doing."

Guetterman said the win was special.

"It's almost like I'm over the hump, back to where I was before the All-Star break," he said. "I came back strong from my last two starts (a loss and no-decision). There was a little thing in

See M's, Page B3

SEAHAWKS: CROWDED ON THE CORNER



Mel Jenkins, a free agent from the Canadian Football League shown in a Seahawk fumble-recovery drill, has upstaged all

other defensive backs in the early part of his first NFL training camp. He played three seasons with the Calgary Stampede.

CFL immigrant pushing for a job

Free-agent find Mel Jenkins drawing raves for work in Seahawk secondary

By Glenn Drosendahl
P-I Reporter

Advance camp was supposed to be Patrick Hunter's time in the sun. But a different cornerback earned more praise in this early part of Seattle Seahawk training camp.

Mel Jenkins, a free agent who played the last three years in the Canadian Football League, has been the star so far.

"I think Melvin Jenkins is going to compete for a starting position," head coach Chuck Knox said.

The starters enter the picture this morning when they are due for their first practice.

Hunter, the second-year cornerback from Nevada-Reno, is expected to challenge starting right cornerback Dave Brown, the defensive captain, this season. But Hunter admits to having focus problems.

"That could be the main thing, staying in tune," he said.

Jenkins not only is staying in tune, he is staying plastered to receivers. His pass coverage at left cornerback has been outstanding.

When asked if Jenkins might be moved from the left corner, which is currently manned by rising star Terry Taylor, to join the battle on the right side, Knox said, "We haven't decided. Patrick Hunter's going to compete, too. Nothing's etched in stone."

A 25-year-old from Jackson, Miss., Jenkins is trying to make another in a series of competitive leaps. He played

two years at a junior college (Hinds JC in Raymond, Miss.) before transferring to the University of Cincinnati where he saw limited action (25 tackles, two interceptions in two years).

Undrafted by the National Football League, he blossomed in Calgary. In his final season with the Stampede, he intercepted seven passes.

"The three years in Canada made him realize he's a pro," defensive backs coach Ralph Hawkins said. "He has great work ethics and extremely good quickness."

Jenkins (5-10, 170 pounds) has run 40 yards in less than 4.4 seconds for the Seahawks and has a vertical leap of 35 inches. Those measurements put him in a group with Hunter and Taylor, Seattle's most physically gifted veteran cornerbacks.

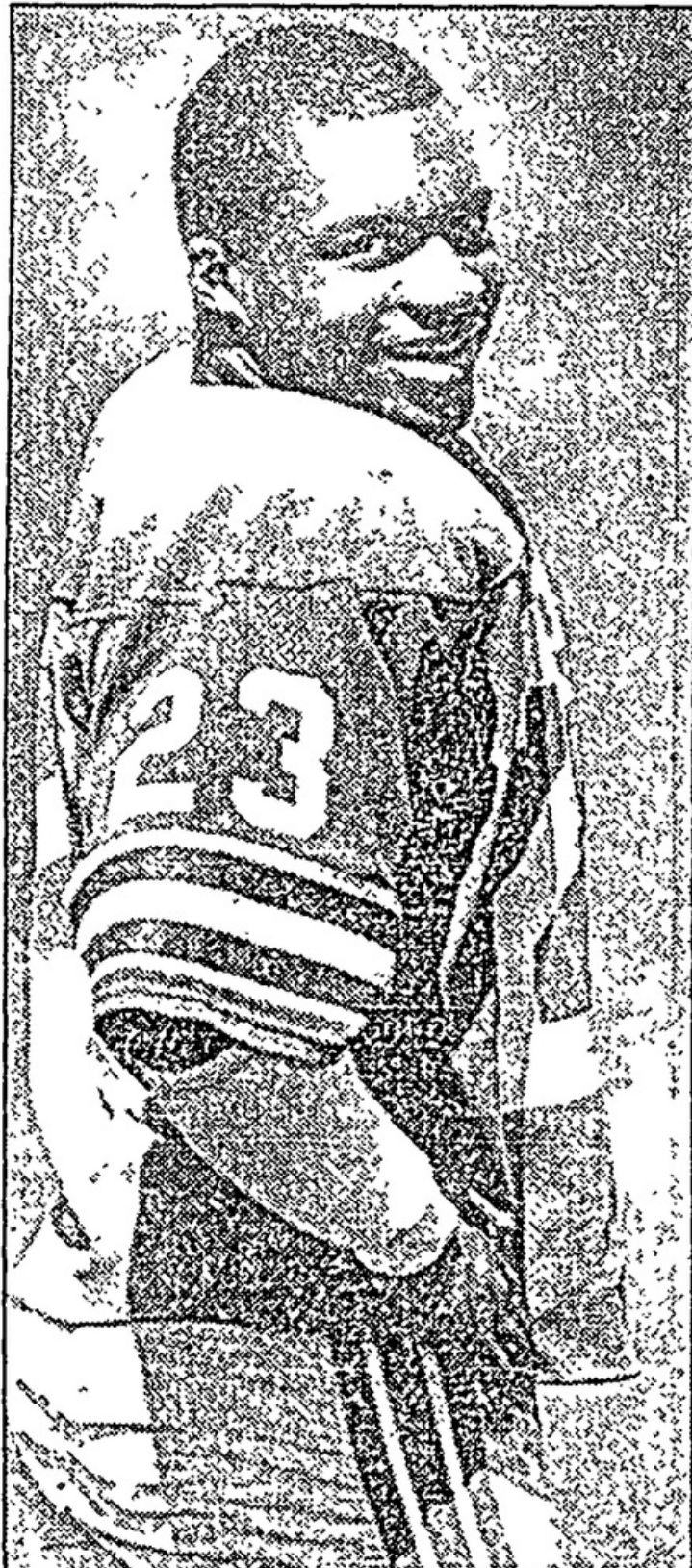
The Seahawks won a battle with at least four other NFL teams when they signed Jenkins. Seattle's pro scouts had been aware of him for more than a year. They paid particular attention when he held his own last season against Mervyn Fernandez, the former B.C. Lions star now with the Los Angeles Raiders.

At the same time, Jenkins was becoming a Seahawks fan. He watched many of the team's games on television.

"I picked Seattle because they finished strong last season and because they have a good organization," he said.

As usual, the Seahawks are trying to improve the speed of their secondary. But this year the coaches also are

See SEAHAWKS, Page B2



Patrick Hunter, the Seahawks' third-round draft choice a year ago, leads a youth movement in Seattle's secondary.

Hangups hurting Hanauer

Season has gone flat for Miller American

By Jim Moore
P-I Reporter

In a Tri-Cities drinking establishment, some Budweiser hydro fans jokingly referred to rival Miller American driver Chip Hanauer as "Cheap Hangover."

These days, Hanauer probably wouldn't argue. His whole 1987 unlimited season has been like an all-night bout with a bottle of Pancho Villa. Hanauer wakes up the next morning and finds his boat isn't quite the babe he thought she was.

Last year it wasn't like this. Hanauer sipped on Cuervo as the Miller won five of the nine races on the unlimited hydroplane circuit.

Miller High Life has suddenly become Miller Low Life.

"Our own pride is hurt," said owner Fran Muncey last week at the Columbia Cup in Pasco. "We're so embarrassed to be doing this badly."

"It has been a very difficult year," Hanauer said. "We're disappointed."

Hanauer, the winningest active driver with 23 victories, is throwing a shutout this year. Looming just behind is his nemesis, Miss Budweiser driver Jim Kropfeld, with 19. Kropfeld has been breezing, capturing four of the five races and undoubtedly would have won the fifth had he not jumped the gun during the Spirit of Detroit final. Hanauer even failed to capitalize on such graciousness, victimized by a lack of power. Mr. Pringle's won that race.

Hanauer, who had won at Detroit the previous two years, had to restart his engine twice during the final heat.

"We were down almost 10 percent on engine power," Hanauer said. "I knew as soon as we started we were in trouble."

Trouble has stalked Hanauer like an unleashed pit bull, gnawing at him from the season opener in Miami and keeping its grip through last week's Columbia Cup.

Salt water, always a turbine-tormentor, gave the Miller compressor stall in Miami where Hanauer failed to finish a heat.

At Evansville, the Miller's gearboxes went out and the engine caught fire just before the final heat, turning Hanauer into Greg Louganis as he dived into the Ohio River.

At Madison, Hanauer lost a

See HANAUER, Page B5



Hanauer

Bies wins State Open in sudden death

By Dan Raley
P-I Reporter

TACOMA — The Senior PGA Tour seemed more and more like a natural next step for Don Bies yesterday at the 61st Washington State Open.

None of the local kids could beat him.

Bies, as unflappable and business-like as ever, outlasted defending champ Jeff Bloom on the first hole of a sudden-death playoff at Fircrest Country Club to pick up the \$9,000 top prize and his third Open title in 28 years.

"I just kind of hung around and ended up winning," said Bies, who was three shots off the pace entering the final round. "But I played awfully well today."

Bies, who will join the Senior Tour in December when he turns 50, came up with an easy par on the extra hole, the 15th, while Bloom three-putted for a bogey.

Both shot 68 for the first 18 holes yesterday, collecting five birdies and two bogeys, and finished at 7-under-par 206 for the tournament.

Bies, playing out of Seattle Golf Club and a member of the PGA Tour

from 1969-80, made his move midway through the final round when he birdied the eighth, 10th, 11th and 12th holes to move past Chris Mitchell, a co-leader for the first two rounds.

On the 12th, he sank a 35-foot putt that went uphill, then downhill and finally curled into the cup from the left. Usually expressionless on the course, Bies dropped to one knee as if to say a prayer following the unlikely shot.

"I was just trying to get it close and it dropped in the hole," explained Bies. "Usually expressionless on the course, Bies dropped to one knee as if to say a prayer following the unlikely shot."

"I played aggressive all the way," said Bies, who has won 16 major Northwest titles, including the State Open in 1959 and '80. "I hit my driver every hole. I hit at the pin every hole. I didn't play it safe coming in."

The 24-year-old Bloom played miraculously, considering he's had a back problem that had kept him from finishing a tournament since April.

A year ago, he charged from behind and beat Mark Wurtz in a two-hole playoff. As an amateur, however, his

winnings amounted to a \$350 gift certificate for golf merchandise.

This time, Bloom overcame bogeys on the 15th and 16th with difficult birdies on the last two holes. He forced the playoff when he curled in a downhill 20-foot putt on the 18th.

The match ended when Bloom missed a 15-foot putt for birdie, then rimmed a four-footer on the playoff hole. At least he had pro status this time, and received a check for \$3,750.

"I just gave it away," said Bloom. "Going into the tournament, if they had said I would have been in a playoff, I would have been pretty happy. But it was pretty frustrating to lose."

"He didn't really beat me. I beat myself."

Mitchell, a 30-year-old assistant pro at Coeur d'Alene Country Club, shot 72 on the final day and finished at 6-under 207, good for \$2,500. He took himself out of contention with bogeys on two of the last four holes.

He won the State Open in 1984, but has had two straight third-place finishes.

"It's getting kind of old," said Mitchell.

So is Bies. But he's getting better.



Don Bies, 49, came from three strokes back to win his third State Open.