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SADAKATA LEADS FLORIDA STATE AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP BY SEVEN STROKES

ORLANDO -- It's a race for second place at the 82nd Florida State Amateur Championship at Lake Nona Golf Club.

Tampa's Akio Sadakata shot a 3-under 69 Saturday to move to 11-under for the championship and take a seven-shot lead. Orlando's Gary Keymont and Lutz' Joe Alfieri are chasing him while standing at 4-under par 212. Keymont fired the low round of the day with a 68, while Alfieri finished with a 75.

"There's no way we can catch him," Alfieri said. "When he made the turn today at 31, I knew we couldn't catch him."

Alfieri was only a stroke back going into the day, but five Sadakata birdies on the first eight holes stretched the lead to six.

"I had good feelings about my short game," Sadakata said. "I felt great. I just wanted to play smart."

The junior college All-American from Brevard Community College could have even gone lower but a mental mistake on the short par-4 fourteenth cost him two strokes.

"I hit it in the left rough and there was a tree in my way," he explained. "I went over the green and couldn't get up-and-down. I ended up with a six."

Alfieri made the turn at even par, but he fell apart on the back side. After making birdies on the 11th and 12th holes, he missed three-foot putts for a bogey on 13, a double bogey on 15 and bogeys on both 16 and 17.

Keymont also fell apart on the back with bogeys on two of the final three holes, but his six previous birdies left him with a 68.

"It ain't easy out here," Keymont said. "I can try and put another 68 on the board and see what happens. All I can do is my best. I can't worry about (Sadakata)."

Sadakata has a chance to break the State Amateur scoring record with another good round Sunday. In 1980, Rick Pearson shot 274 at Feather Sound Country Club.

"I'm just going to relax and play my game," Sadakata said. "I just want to keep doing what I've been doing."

The final round begins play at 8:00 a.m. Sunday with the leaders going off at 9:30 a.m. An awards ceremony will be held following the completion of play (approximately 1:30 p.m.) where the champion will be awarded the Clarence Camp Championship Bowl.