



FLORIDA STATE GOLF ASSOCIATION

5714 Draw Lane
Sarasota, Florida
34238-5125

(941) 921-5695
(941) 923-1254 fax

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CONTACT: Chris Lowery
(407) 859-3402

SADAKATA, ALFIERI TRYING TO RUN AWAY WITH THE FLORIDA STATE AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP

ORLANDO -- Tampa's Akio Sadakata continued his strong play by firing a 3-under par 69 Friday to stand at 8-under par at the halfway point of the 82nd Florida State Amateur Championship at Lake Nona Golf Club. His good friend Joe Alfieri of Lutz is one stroke back after rounds of 68 and 69.

After making the turn at even par on the day, Sadakata made four birdies on the final nine holes. His only bad hole was a bogey on the picturesque par-4 18th after three-putting from 25-feet.

"I really played well today," the junior college All-American from Brevard Community College said. "A few of the holes were very tough."

Sadakata has only been in the United States for five years. Originally from Nara, Japan, Sadakata is honing his skills for a major university and then possibly the Tour.

"I haven't decided where I will go. I have another year at Brevard and then I will just see," the 20-year old said.

The 29-year old Alfieri made five birdies and two bogeys in a round that was highlighted with a 6-iron from 162 yards that stopped 5 feet away from the hole for an easy birdie.

"I played very solid for the first 15 holes. On the last three holes, I started pushing everything right. I could've gone really low today.

"I'm in a good position," Alfieri, a former mini-tour player, added. "Akio is a great player. He's already qualified for the second round of the U.S. Open twice and he's only 20."

Middleburg's Josh McCumber, a former Florida Gator, shot the low round of the day with a "pretty easy" 67. Seven birdies and two bogeys moved him from 44th place to a tie for fifth place.

"I didn't hit it very good yesterday," he said. "I haven't really been shooting low lately, so I just went out and played."

Winter Park's David Boesel had a great round going before getting in trouble on the back nine. Through 14 holes, he was 3-under par for the round and the championship, then he made four straight bogeys to finish with a 1-over par 73.

John Turk of Satellite Beach also had problems today. After carding a first-round 69 to stand tied for third, Turk made a 12-over par 84 on Friday. "Don't ask me what happened because I don't know," was the best way he could describe his round.

Jupiter's Steve Genchi is five strokes back of Sadakata in third place, while Longwood's Brian Opal is in fourth place with a two-day total of 142.

Saturday's play begins at 8:00 a.m. with the leaders going off at 9:39 a.m.