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Schulz wins Florida State Amateur title

MICK ELLIOTT of The Tampa Tribune

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BROOKSVILLE - Robbie Schulz's hunt for a college golf program to offer his game got a little easier Sunday following a final-round 5-under-par 67 that earned him a four-shot victory in the Florida State Amateur Championship at World Woods.

Schulz, 20, whose family recently moved from Miami to Naples, completed one season of junior college competition at Wallace CC in Dothan, Ala., before the school dropped its golf program.

"I want to keep playing, but I don't really know what I'm going to do," Schulz said. "My dad and I have been talking about Gulf Coast University in Naples, but I haven't talked to them."

Sunday's six-birdie, one-bogey performance that produced a four-shot victory against runners-up Joe Alfieri of Lutz and Brendan Takacs of Clearwater should make doors open a little easier.

Beginning the final round on the Rolling Oaks course four shots back, Schulz made his move when third-round leader Steve Albright of Ocala faltered with a final-day 79.

Alfieri, former Florida State Golf Association player of the year, shot a final-round even-par 72, while Takacs carded 70. Both finished even-par 286 for the 72-hole event played on both World Wood courses: Pine Barrens and Rolling Oaks.

Alfieri, a 31-year-old food broker, finished second for the third consecutive year. He has played in four Florida State Amateur Championships, never finished lower than fifth, but remains without a victory.

"I hit the ball solid tee to green all week and was right in the thick of it but just knew somebody was going to go low," Alfieri said. "You got to take your hat off to a guy who shot 67."

Alfieri's hopes were sidelined by back-to-back bogeys on 13 and 14.

"The pin placements were tough. They were good for the pace of the greens, but tough," Alfieri said. "On those two greens, you just could not go at the flag. I hit it to about 35 feet on both of them and three-putted both."

The Florida State Amateur drew 716 entries, with 168 golfers advancing through qualifying rounds to earn their way into the four-round championship.

