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Naples native's rally wins Amateur

By BRANT JAMES

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BROOKSVILLE -- It would have been a great way to gather confidence for his junior year at Wallace (Ala.) College if the school hadn't recently dissolved its golf program.

Robbie Schulz won the 84th Florida State Amateur Golf Championship on Sunday at World Woods with a final-round 5-under-par 67. He overtook four players who began the day in front of him.

Schulz, 20, finished at 5-under 282, overcoming a four-stroke deficit and beating Lutz's Joe Alfieri and Clearwater's Brendan Takacs by four strokes. Three rounds were played on the par-72 Rolling Oaks course and one on the par-71 Pine Barrens course. "I was just trying to make pars, and everything got working," Schulz said.

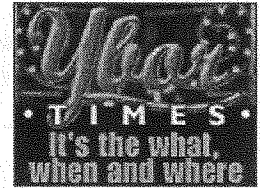
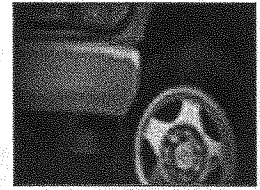
Alfieri, 31, began the day second, three strokes behind Steve Albright, and shot 72 to finish as runner-up for the third consecutive year.

Takacs, 19, atoned for 75 on Saturday with 70 but double bogeyed No. 14 and bogeyed No. 15. Last year the Central Florida player led entering the final day but finished fourth.

"Last year I learned you're never out of it," he said. "So I took that into the final round. I played good, but I can't seal it."

Crystal River's Kelly Gosse shot even-par 287 to finish fourth.

Albright, who led after each of the first three rounds,



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played in the group behind Schulz and knew from marshals that his bid was over by the 14th hole, when Schulz birdied to go 6 under. Albright's 79 left him tied for eighth at 290.

"I had a bad day from the very beginning, and I knew standing on the 16th tee I had no chance," Albright said. "It was a lot of pressure for me having part of the lead every day, and it can wear on you. I gave out."

Schulz, from Naples, didn't want updates as he orchestrated a 12-stroke turnaround on Albright.

"(The marshal) asked, and I said 'No,' " Schulz said. "If I know, that's when I start pushing harder, and there was no reason to. I was playing good. I might as well keep it as it was."

Schulz birdied six holes, but he said a tap-in par putt after an hour rain delay jump-started his game.

"When they called it, I had missed the green," he said. "As soon as we came out, I lipped the chip and had a tap-in. That fired me up real quick."

The top 10 finishers earned exemptions into the 2002 Amateur.

Buick Classic to finish today; Garcia leads

HARRISON, N.Y. -- Sergio Garcia had a big smile and an air of confidence after the third round of the PGA Tour event. With a two-stroke lead over his closest pursuer and an eight-stroke cushion over Tiger Woods, why not?

"He can still shoot a good round and finish well," Garcia said of Woods. But he left little doubt that anyone eight strokes behind with 18 holes to play, be he Woods or any other golfer, was not of primary concern.

"It's not on my mind right now. I'm more focused on Scott Hoch and J.P. Hayes," Garcia said.

Woods shot 3-under 68 and lost ground to Garcia's 66.

Hoch, who also had 68, was alone in second at 10-under 203, two strokes behind Garcia heading into today's final round. Hayes was a shot behind Hoch after 67, and Russ Cochran, Stewart Cink and Gabriel

was his
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