

The **Woodruff wrestling** team has been in limbo for nearly two weeks, waiting for a chance to win a state championship. The Wolverines' wait is finally over.

Woodruff will face **Loris** for the 2A state championship at 7 p.m. Thursday at Ridge View High School in Columbia.

Woodruff beat Palmetto 37-23 for the upper state title on Feb. 10.

"I knew all of this would eventually get settled," **Woodruff** coach Daniel Westmoreland said. "I was worried about when we would get to wrestle, but I knew it would happen. It seems like it has been forever since we wrestled Palmetto for the upper state. But the kids have been working hard, and I think they're focused. Hopefully, we'll be ready."

On Monday, Hanahan High School dropped its fight against the S.C. High School League after the league ruled Hanahan used an ineligible wrestler to defeat **Loris** in the lower state finals. The forfeit turned a one-point Hanahan win into a victory for **Loris**.

Woodruff (24-6) fell to **Loris** in the state championship match in 2008. **Loris** (39-7) has won the state title twice in the last three years.

"We've waited a long time to get the chance to wrestle for a state championship," said Akierrian Gilliam, a senior. "I think everybody is ready seeing that this is the last dual match for this team. That's our motivation. I know what it feels like to win an individual championship, but winning it as a team would be a better accomplishment."

"We are really excited about being in this position," senior Jeremy Phillips said. "We've been working hard in practice since the beginning of the year to get to where we are now. It would mean a lot if we could win this, since it's my last shot to win it with the team. All the seniors have worked hard, and we want it bad."

Woodruff's last state title came in 2001.