

Several **Woodruff** wrestlers weren't just battling for individual titles Friday night. They were also battling against frustration.

The Wolverines were still reeling from their 2A state duals championship match being postponed for the second time only 24 hours prior to taking to the mats in the upper state qualifier at Broome High School.

The qualifier will wrap up today.

**Woodruff** was scheduled to face **Loris** for the state title on Thursday when a court-ordered injunction halted the match.

The injunction was filed by the Berkeley County school district in protest of S.C. High School League commissioner Jerome Singleton's ruling to disqualify Hanahan for using an ineligible wrestler, Koffi Dwira, who is certified in the 125-pound weight class.

Dwira was deemed ineligible after competing in a higher weight class than is permitted by the High School League when **wrestling** in a holiday tournament earlier in the season.

**Woodruff** coach Daniel Westmoreland said his wrestlers got the opportunity to let off some steam at a team practice Friday morning.

"That got their minds off what happened to them last night," he said. "I think their mindsets are where they need to be."

Jacob Collins, who wrestles in the 140-pound weight class, said the team needs to stay strong despite the setbacks.

"I'm just frustrated this keeps dragging out," he said. "(Hanahan) has lost the ruling twice already. I'm just ready to wrestle for state. I've been ready for two weeks. But you just have to keep your cool and go out there and wrestle."

Collins' teammate Robbie Blais said the short turnaround for the individual matches was tough to prepare for.

"It was pretty difficult. When we were told last night that we were going home, your mindset is just on the match that night," said Blais, who wrestles in the 135-pound weight class. "You have to quickly change that mindset and get ready for the next day."

A hearing is scheduled in a Berkeley County courtroom to decide the fate of who faces **Woodruff** in the title match.

Should the ruling go in favor of Hanahan, it's likely that **Loris** and the High School League would file appeals, thus lengthening the process.

The season is scheduled to end after the state individual tournament Feb. 26-27 at Rock Hill High School.

Jeremy Phillips, who wrestles in the 125-pound class for the Wolverines and holds the school record for wins, said he hopes a match will take place.

"It's going to be very discouraging to everyone on the team if it doesn't," he said. "We've worked hard this year. I hope this thing gets settled out."

Cole Lawson, who wrestles in the 160-pound class, said he and his teammates are ready to compete

regardless of who the opponent will be.

“There were doubts about our potential at the beginning of the season. Then we rallied and won our region and upper state,” he said. “I think we deserve to wrestle for state after all we’ve been through.”

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