

WOODRUFF — Jacob Grandy was already thinking about rewriting history Wednesday only minutes after **Woodruff** had clinched a return to the 2A wrestling state championship.

Woodruff vs. Hanahan

1 p.m. Saturday, Ridge View High School, Columbia

WOODRUFF 37, PALMETTO 23

103 -- A. Gilliam (WOD) def. Adams, 112 -- Lanford (WOD) def. Chitwood, 119 -- Thompson (WOD) def. Cristobal, 125 -- Phillips (WOD) pin Espinosa, 130 -- T. Gilliam (WOD) def. Gillespie, 135 -- Holliday (PAL) pin Blais, 140 -- Frasier (PAL) def. Collins, 145 -- Williams (WOD) def. Keefe, 152 -- Morales (PAL) def. Simmons, 160 -- Lawson (WOD) pin Attaway, 171 --

McConnell (PAL) pin Freeman, 189 -- Henry (WOD) def. Frady, 215 -- Grandy (WOD) def. Callahan, HWT -- Lamber (PAL)

def. Smith.

* **Wrestling: Woodruff-Palmetto**

The senior, whose win at 215 pounds was called the key to the match by Palmetto coach Greg Abercrombie, wasn't exactly in a celebratory mood after his Wolverines defeated the Mustangs 37-23.

Grandy pointed to the collection of photos commemorating the school's collection of upper state and state championship teams adorning a wall of the gymnasium.

"We got our picture up there from two years ago, but we want to be able to wipe off the 'upper' part of that," Grandy said.

"This does mean a lot to us — winning the upper state championship — but in the back of our minds it really means nothing if we don't go on and win the state championship."

The Wolverines advance to meet Hanahan at 1 p.m. Saturday at Ridge View High School in Columbia. Hanahan, the top seed in the lower state, defeated No. 2 seed **Loris** 34-33 on Wednesday night.

Woodruff returns to the state title match for the second time in three years, losing to **Loris** in 2008.

"We're just hoping for two good days of practice and then we'll see what happens," said coach Daniel Westmoreland, now in his fourth season at the school.

What happened Wednesday was **Woodruff** allowed Palmetto, a fellow member of Region II-2A, to take a solid 23-15 lead before storming back with the final 22 points of the match.

"They definitely put us to the test," Westmoreland said. "We got down early and really had our backs to the wall, but the guys fought back hard. The key to beating good teams is not giving up pins. and we did a great job of staying of our backs.

There were only four combined pins with each team posting a pair, including **Woodruff's** Cole Lawson at 160 pounds and Jeremy Phillips at 125.

Jacob Lanford's victory at 112 pounds gave the Wolverines a 24-23 advantage before Tim Thompson expanded the lead to 27-23 with a win at 119 pounds. Phillips then clinched the match with the Wolverines'

second and last pin of the evening.

"We all worked hard and the seniors on this team really didn't want it to end," Phillips said. "We couldn't have done this without coach (Westmoreland) pushing us and everybody staying dedicated. It feels extra good because not a lot of people get a second chance at winning a state championship."

Woodruff's Chris Henry started the comeback with a win at 189 pounds followed by Grandy's win. Akierrian Gilliam kept the momentum going with a win at 103 pounds, setting the stage for Lanford to help take a lead the Wolverines would never surrender.

"I've felt all year that the top four teams in the upper state were in our region," Abercrombie said. "I wish **Woodruff** well and hope they win (Saturday) because they represent our region also. I just wish it could have ended better for us."

Copyright 2010 Herald-Journal (Spartanburg, SC)