

After three delays to get there, **Loris** had to wait a few minutes longer to sort through tiebreakers before learning they had won the school's fifth Class AA state **wrestling** championship, 31-30, over **Woodruff**, on Thursday night at Ridge View High School.

After an appeal gave the Lions a fourth-straight Lower State title over Hanahan, a weather postponement, a Hanahan appeal and a court injunction that forced **Loris** and **Woodruff** off the mat last week, the Lions and Wolverines found themselves tied at 30 after all 14 matches in Thursday's final, forcing the teams to work through tiebreakers to see which team would take home its fifth state title.

The teams were tied in the first three tiebreakers - points taken (0-0), individual match points taken (0-0) and personal foul points (0-0) - before **Loris** finally had an 8-6 edge in matches won.

It was as close as it sounded, **Loris** coach Thomas Britt said. **Loris** led 30-25 heading into the final match as Nick Mari faced off against the Wolverines' Jeremy Phillips, the No. 2 rated wrestler at 125 in Class AA. A pin by Phillips and **Woodruff** would have won it all. Instead, **Loris**' first-year wrestler battled enough to keep his back off the mat despite losing a 17-0 major decision and giving **Woodruff** five points that left the match tied.

"Nick really stepped up huge," Britt said.

**Loris**' heavy hitters came away with wins, but could only manage one pin, that coming from LaQuandian Bromell at 135 pounds, his 202nd career win as he remained unbeaten in his senior season.

"**Woodruff** did a phenomenal job not giving up pins all night," Britt said. "The kids did a great job staying off their backs."

Another key win for the Lions came from Malcolm Griffin, who came back from an early deficit to score a takedown with 15 seconds to go at 112 pounds in a 9-8 win.

At 145 pounds, **Loris**' Henry James a 10-2 major decision over No. 2 Marquis Williams

"I'm so proud of our kids' resiliency," Britt said. "They kept fighting. We had some down practices, but they came together ready to go and they fought hard. **Woodruff** had to go through a lot, too. It was just a great match."

The win gave **Loris** its third state title in the last four seasons. The Lions also won in 1999 and 2000.

Eight **Loris** wrestlers will participate in the Class AA individual tournament this weekend.

130: T. Gilliam (W) maj. dec. Kwamaine Livingston, 16-4; 135: LaQuandian Bromell (L) pin. Blais, 4:29; 140: Montel White (L) dec. Collins, 12-5; 145: Harry James (L) maj. dec. Marquis Williams, 10-2; 152: Steven Jenrette (L) dec. Simmons, 12-8; 160: Lawson (W) dec. Josh Jones, 8-2; 171: Dexter Richburg (L) maj. dec. Lopez, 13-3; 189: Henry (W) pin. Joel Stevens, 2:28; 215: Grandy (W) pin. Dajuan Griffin, 3:00; 285: Kendrick Butler (L) dec. Smith, 4-0; b Akierian Gilliam (W) pin. Terrell McCaskill, 5:30; 112: Malcolm Griffin (L) dec. Landford 9-8; 119: Jamar Gore (L) maj. dec. Tim Thompson, 13-2; 125: Jeremy Phillips (W) tech. fall Nick Mari 17-0.