

In Michael **Steinbar**'s 17 years as **Marion**'s **wrestling** coach, he has seen five Swamp Foxes win individual state titles, the latest being senior Ta'John Jordan, who captured last season's state Class A/2A crown at 152 pounds.

He has yet to see the program win a Class 2A state duals crown.

That could happen Saturday when his second-ranked team wrestles No. 3 **Liberty** at 11 a.m. at Columbia's Dreher High School.

This past Saturday, the Swamp Foxes cruised through the first four rounds of lower state. That was, until the final when **Steinbar**'s team faced top-ranked and defending state duals champion Battery Creek, which edged **Marion** late in the regular season.

Battery Creek, in Saturday's lower-state final, led **Marion** by 16 points with three matches left: 106, 113 and 220 pounds.

Battery Creek had put its original 220-pound guy at 226 to wrestle in that class, leaving 220 open to a forfeit in **Marion**'s favor if it got that far.

For it to even get that far, though, **Marion** preferred pins – six points each – from Jesse Brown and Dilan Gillard to make the Swamp Foxes' move. Teammate J.D. Washington, after that, would claim the individual and team win at 220 via forfeit.

That's exactly what happened.

"I felt I had to help my team," Brown said.

Gillard, during his match, found himself almost getting pinned.

"It was hard," said Gillard, who is 36-0. "I was just thinking of not letting the team down. He put me on my back. I was scared and I got back out of it and had to go to work."

All that was left for **Marion** to do was celebrate.

"I guess (Battery Creek) was in the mindset they would have a big-enough lead to where it wouldn't come down to the last match," **Steinbar** said.

Steinbar then reflected on things.

"Well, they're pretty happy, pretty stoked," **Steinbar** said. "It was one of our goals at the beginning of the season to win a state team title before individual titles."

After losing in the past two lower state semifinals in dual **wrestling**, **Marion** appears excited.

"I think we have a good chance Saturday to do it," Brown said.