

A thrilling season for the **Summerville Wrestling** team ended with a loss in the state finals.

The Green Wave lost 34-32 to **Fort Mill** on Feb. 11 in the Class AAAAA **Wrestling** State Championship match at Dreher High School. **Summerville** fell to 27-3 on the season with the loss and finishes as the state runner-up for the second time in the past three seasons. The Green Wave's other dual losses this season came to Chapin and West-Oak.

"This is special because it's hard to get here," **Summerville** coach Darryl Tucker said. "It's even harder going back home with the second-place trophy every time. It hurts, but we will keep fighting. We didn't start at a great weight class today and when you fall behind it puts a lot of pressure on guys who then try to force things."

Summerville has won multiple state **wrestling** championships. Tucker was an assistant coach on some of those championship teams, but is still looking for his first state title as a head coach. When he led **Summerville** to the state finals during the 2020-21 season, the Wave lost to Hillcrest in the title game.

In this year's championship, **Summerville** and **Fort Mill** both claimed bonus points in five weight classes. If **Summerville** could have managed a pin in just one class it won by decision or prevented being pinned in another class it could have opened the door for the Green Wave to win the match.

"People don't realize how important getting the flip is," Tucker said. "We were hoping they could show first at 220 and then we could bump our 220 up to heavyweight but it didn't work out and then we just gave up too many bonus points. You can't do that in big matches."

After defeating Berkeley, Stratford and Cane Bay in the first three rounds of the playoffs, the Green Wave advanced to the state-title match with a 39-24 win over River Bluff on Feb. 8 in the Lower State Championship match. **Summerville** had an explosive start against the Gators, winning the first four weight classes by fall for a 24-0 lead.

Landon Deaton kicked things off in the 106-pound weight class by pinning his River Bluff opponent. Xavier Anderson (113 pounds), Caleb Herring (120) and Kayleb Pinckney (126) then acted in kind. All four Green Wave pins came in the first period.

River Bluff got on the scoreboard with a decision at 132, but **Summerville** answered by claiming three straight decisions from Ben Guillian (138), Preston Smith (145) and Hassan Williams (152) for a 33-3 lead.

The Gators cut into the lead with decisions in the next three classes, but because River Bluff was unable to get bonus points in any of those classes it put the match out of reach. Mason Ayers pinned his 195-pound opponent in the first round for a 39-12 **Summerville** lead and the Green Wave forfeited the final two weight classes.

5A **Wrestling** State Championship Results:

Fort Mill 34, **Summerville** 32

160: Steel Walker (S) dec. Cade Simpson (FM), 5-0

170: Harrison Noll (FM) pin Jonas Haynes (S)

182: TJ Miller (FM) maj.dec. Julius Frasier (S), 11-3

195: Mason Ayers (S) pin Joshua Smith (FM)

220: Henry Debbout (FM) pin Julius Brown (S)

285: Grayson Sykes (FM) dec. Angel Lopez (S), 1-0

106: Lincoln Greene (FM) pin Landon Deaton (S)

113: Xavier Anderson (S) maj.dec. Jacob Nally (FM), 12-0

120: Caleb Herring (S) dec. Tucker Gibson (FM), 10-6

126: Aiden Eubanks (FM) pin Kayleb Pinckney (S)

132: Ben Guilliam (S) pin Logan Shope (FM)

138: Hunter Hickman (S) pin Gavin Mitcheson (FM)

145: Noah Kitchton (FM) dec. Preston Smith (S), 10-4

152: Hassan Williams (S) maj.dec. Caleb Brock (FM), 15-5

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