

You often hear it said some schools are "football schools" or "basketball schools." If it weren't the case already, **West-Oak** High School proved this weekend it has few equals when it comes to **wrestling** schools.

The Warriors won their second state championship in three years, and third in seven, with a thrilling, come-from-behind 34-24 victory over **Battery Creek** on Saturday at Dreher High School in Columbia.

You can read all about and see images from the match on the front of both the A and C sections of today's newspaper, but here's the quick recap.

West-Oak trailed 18-15 with five matches to go before heavyweight Gavin James gutted out a victory in the waning seconds of his match, but the Warriors were still down 24-18 after forfeiting the next weight class to put their backs against the wall with three matches left.

But Jordan Lee, Justin Smith and Matt Williams all came through in the clutch - with Smith and Lee winning by pin - to secure the fourth state championship in program history. The 10-point victory was all the more impressive for the Warriors considering they forfeited two weight classes, basically handing **Battery Creek** half of its points on the day.

It was also a measure of redemption for coach Greg Brewer and his **West-Oak** team, which had won 24 of its 25 matches on the season coming into the title bout - with the lone blemish coming at the hands of the Dolphins.

The state title was the second for the Warriors under Brewer - Jeff Jordan was the coach of the 2011 champions - and the third at the 3A level (the program's first championship in 1994 came as a 2A school).

With the victory, **West-Oak** joined an elite group of 13 schools in South Carolina that have won at least four state **wrestling** titles. And it shouldn't be overlooked that the program it knocked off to do so was already among that group.

A handful of the wrestlers who took the mat Saturday afternoon at Dreher had also wrestled two years ago at the same venue when the Warriors defeated Beaufort - including James, who summed up the feat nicely.

"It's a once-in-a-lifetime thing for people to even have one (championship), and for me to have two, it's amazing," he said. "It's something I'll never forget. These guys I wrestle with, we'll never forget each other."

And there's little doubt the Warriors have made sure plenty of other people will remember what they've accomplished, too.