

Before a standing-room-only crowd, the Ashley Ridge wrestling team edged rival Summerville, 34-24, to win the Class AAAAA Lower State championship on Wednesday night at Summerville High.

Ashley Ridge advances to Saturday night's state championship match against defending state champion Hillcrest at Dreher High School. The finals commence at 7 p.m.

Timberland also will compete for a state title on Saturday. The Wolves won the Class AA Lower State title with a 51-27 win over North Central. It will be the school's first-ever appearance in the state finals.

Ashley Ridge's victory avenged an earlier season defeat to the Green Wave, who won the region 8-AAAAA championship three weeks ago, 32-29. This night, however, belonged to the Swamp Foxes.

"Really excited for our kids and for Ashley Ridge High School," coach Stacey Woods said. "It was a very close match. Summerville has a heckuva program. It was great tonight, great atmosphere. Dorchester (district) two has great wrestling and it was on display here tonight."

Ashley Ridge is making its second appearance in the finals. The Swamp Foxes lost to Dorman to finish the 2015-16 season.

Ashley Ridge took an early lead at 182 pounds with a win by Jackson Diamond. Summerville's Kyle Combs got a pin at 195 for a 6-3 lead but Ashley Ridge's Christian Garland got a pin at 220.

Summerville took a 12-9 lead with a pin at 285 by Brandon Rogers. Ashley Ridge then reeled off five straight wins, including a controversial win at 138. Summerville's Brayton Killiri was well in control of his bout with Mason Maralit **before** an illegal slam was called. The slam resulted in a shoulder injury to Maralit and Ashley Ridge was awarded the six-point for a forfeit.

That win pushed Ashley Ridge to a 27-15 lead.

"Big six-point swing right there," Summerville coach Darryl Tucker said.

Woods added, "I hate that the match ended like that but at the end of the day I am proud of our kids," he said.

Ashley Ridge closed the match with wins at 152 and 160 **before** forfeiting the match at 170 pounds.