

Hanahan's appeal of a ruling that cost it the Class AA Lower State duals **wrestling** championship was denied by the South Carolina High School League's Executive Committee on Thursday morning.

"They voted 13-0 in our favor," Loris coach Thomas Britt said Thursday. Britt and Loris athletic director Barry Brooks were in attendance at the appeal at the league offices in Columbia.

The result means that Loris will wrestle **Woodruff** at 7 p.m. tonight at Ridge View High School for the state championship.

Britt said the appeal process was closed and that he was only in front of the executive committee for a few questions. He did not hear any of Hanahan's argument or the questioning of Hanahan's representatives by the committee.

"They just asked me how I knew the rule, where I knew it from and what I did once I knew the rule had been broken," Britt said.

Hanahan, which beat Loris 34-33 in the Lower State championship Feb. 10, was ruled the day after the Lower State title match to have used a wrestler in a weight class for which he was ineligible and was forced to forfeit that wrestler's victory in the Lower State match. The change in scoring gave Loris a 39-31 victory, but Hanahan and Berkeley County School District officials decided to fight the ruling by SCHSL commissioner Jerome Singleton and obtained a court injunction to halt the state championship match until the hearing.

A win in tonight's Class AA state championship would give Loris its fifth state **wrestling** title and third in the last four seasons. The Lions won in 1999, 2000, 2007 and 2008, but fell to Abbeville in last year's state final.

The AA Lower State individual **wrestling** tournament is Friday and Saturday at Aynor. Action begins at 6 p.m. Friday and 9 a.m. Saturday.