

River Bluff knocked out as Fort - State, The (Columbia, SC) - February 15, 2018 - page 11 February 15, 2018 | State, The (Columbia, SC) | 411 1956 522 1971BY LOU BEZJAK | Bezjak@thestate.com | Page 11 | Page 11 | Page 12 | Page 13 | Page 14 | Page 14 | Page 15 | Page 15 | Page 16 | Page 16 | Page 17 | Page 17 | Page 18 | Pa

River Bluff wrestling's season is over after all.

The South Carolina High School League executive committee voted 11-0 to overturn the SCHSL decision to kick out **Fort Dorchester** from the Class 5A playoffs. With the ruling, the Patriots are back in and will wrestle **Rock Hill** for the state championship. A date and location has yet to be determined but likely will be next week.

"Obviously, whenever one of our programs gets accused of things, no malice was ever intended, it is good to see the legislatures and principals get together and look out for what's better for the kids," Fort Dorchester athletics director Steve LaPrad said. "Our kids are excited, ready to wrestle for a state title."

The **Fort Dorchester wrestling** team and coaches gathered in the packed hearing room and let out a big sigh of relief when the verdict was announced.

Fort Dorchester defeated River Bluff 41-26 on Feb. 7 in the Class 5A Lower State championship. But on Feb. 9, the SCHSL looked into the possibility of the Patriots using an ineligible wrestler.

SCHSL assistant commissioner Skip Lax said the league was made aware of the possible violation Jan. 31. Lax didn't say who sent the complaint, but it was likely from a rival school, based on information inferred during the hearing.

The complaint involved the residence of a Fort Dorchester freshman wrestler who is home-schooled.

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