

The sting of Thursday's 31-30 tiebreaker defeat to **Loris** in the 2A dual state championship is still being felt throughout the **Woodruff wrestling** team.

But no one is complaining about the rule that cost the Wolverines the match.

The score was tied at 30-all after all the matches had taken place, but **Loris** was given the title via tiebreaker due to winning eight of 14 bouts.

Wolverines coach Daniel Westmoreland said tiebreaker losses are a part of the sport.

"Going in you know if (the match) is tied, then it comes down to a tiebreaker situation," he said. "It's just unfortunate and didn't work out for us."

The 125-pound match between **Woodruff's** Jeremy Phillips and **Loris' Nick Mari** proved to be the decision maker.

Although Phillips posted a 17-0 victory, Mari helped the Lions to the title by not getting pinned.

S.C. High School League commissioner Jerome Singleton said tiebreakers are nothing new when it comes to **wrestling**.

"I haven't been to a whole lot of **wrestling** matches, but from my understanding (tiebreakers) go on a lot," he said. "I've just not seen it in a title match."

Singleton said the tiebreaker rule is set up by the National Federation of State High School Associations and not the High School League.

He added that all **wrestling** coaches are aware of the rule and has "never heard anything to the contrary" about any of the coaches wanting a change to the rule.

However, Westmoreland said he wouldn't mind seeing a change should the situation arise.

"I'd love to see another weight class," he said. "There's a big jump at the top from 215 (pounds) to 285."

Akierrian Gilliam, who wrestles in the 103-pound weight class for the Wolverines, said the team was upset about the loss but is happy about the season.

"It's a rough feeling. I feel like we should have won, but everyone fought hard on both sides," he said. "I'm proud of what we accomplished, winning two upper state championships in four years. The rule is the rule. I wish we could change it, but we can't and just have to live with it."

Westmoreland agreed.

"To get that far and not win was heartbreaking," he said. "As far as the season goes, I'm extremely proud of our young men. There were a lot of tears shed, but they held their heads high."