

3

An Accident Waiting to Happen or Just A Tragic Accident?

On February 22nd at the Lexington County Courthouse, the case of *South Carolina v. Dorian Delaney* took place, coming into session at 8:53 am. Facing unlawful conduct towards a child and involuntary manslaughter charges, track coach Dorian Delaney is under trial due to the death of one of her star runners. Viscous prosecution lawyers Reed Pricket, Olive Dixon, and Malakai Kelley did not hold back attempting to place, as Pricket stated in his opening, and as Dixon stated in her closing, only part of the blame for Kylin Abbott's death on the defendant. A cutthroat argument built off the statement that Kylin's death was "an accident waiting to happen." Pulling witnesses Bailey Brown, Avery Abbott, and Cameron Covington, the state of South Carolina was ruthless against an unstable and nervous defense team. The prosecution's opening statement was delivered by Reed Pricket; as he ended his statement, Pricket stated, "We are here in the eyes of justice, we are justice." Sending chills throughout the courtroom.

Assistant coach Bailey Brown claims he never saw a water break be taken during this particular practice. Dixon took point on emphasizing the SCHS's field was made of synthetic turf, which can average 30+ degrees hotter than asphalt. Defense lawyer,

Brayden Merrell stressed the “Do not delay” protocol when cross-examining, asking Brown, “Why did you wait 12 minutes to call 911?” Kylin’s grieving father, Avery Abbott’s first statement on the stand Saturday was, “Dorian Delaney killed my daughter” with his last statement being equally devastating as he claimed that once Kylin collapsed, “Coach Delaney stood over [her] body like it was amusing.” He was then cross-examined about Kylin’s anxiety medication, Strenaxal. Defense lawyer Zoe Bart questioned why Mr. Abbott had not informed Delaney about Kylin’s drug use when he knew about the highly concerning side effects of this medication, one of which is sudden death caused by heat exertion. Mr. Abbott simply claimed he, “forgot” because the prescription was given in February. Pricket brought Cameron Covington to the stand next, an expert in pathology and toxicology, and dove into the autopsy report, focusing on the urinalysis. Kylin was hydrated when the autopsy took place, her specific gravity being within normal limits, yet Dr. Covington states he found the effects of Kylin’s alleged dehydration far outweighed the effects of Stenaxal as her cause of death.

Pulling Frankie Fulton, Dorian Delaney, and Shay Erikson, the defense team built their argument on attempting to place blame on Coach Brown, who waited 12 minutes before calling 911, and Mr. Abbott, who “forgot” to inform Delaney of Kylin’s deadly medication. On the stand, Fulton stated, “We trained the same, we ate the same” when speaking of Kylin. Fulton and Kylin, runners who were always neck and neck, but now one’s dead and one’s alive, what piece is missing here? Delaney took a strong stance on her previous decisions as Pricket hit the ground running when he began his cross-exam. Delaney specifically stated, “Kylin died as a result of Coach Brown not calling 911.” Pricket’s response was, “[Kylin] gave her life for your practice.”

Closing statements were delivered by Dixon and B. Merrell. Dixon using a strong analogy of a pilot, trained and in charge of his passengers lives; while Merrell's closing statement was short and shaky. We wait patiently for the verdict.