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The Tragic Death of a 17-Year-Old Track Star

GREENVILLE – Following a tense two-hour trial Saturday at the Greenville County Courthouse, a court case following Taylor resident Dorian Delaney was heard before a judge on the morning of February 22nd. The defendant is accused of unlawfully causing the death of 17-year-old Kaylin Abbot, a young track star, by depriving the victim of the appropriate amount of fluids needed causing an unsafe track practice.

The victim, Kaylin Abbott, was a hard-working track star with a bright future ahead of him. Unfortunately, Kaylin suffered from anxiety as his daily life consisted of many stressful responsibilities and high expectations. This led to Kaylin Abbot being prescribed Strenaxal, a drug indicated for the treatment of anxiety. This drug had a variety of possibly dangerous side effects such as symptomatic cardiovascular disease, hypertension, hyperthyroidism, etc. One of the main warnings is to avoid extreme exertion as serious cardiovascular events may occur.

On August 8, 2024, on this hot day, temperatures reached 90 F with a heat index of 113 degrees. This weather was common for the south and many athletes were used to this kind of weather. During a track exercise called “Ladders”, track athlete Kaylin Abbot

suddenly collapsed on the football field. He showed symptoms of dehydration and later passed away in the hospital, his cause of death was ruled to be total organ failure as a result of severe dehydration.

According to the Prosecution, Head coach Dorian Delaney gave the star relay team Ladders to complete as a punishment for them fooling around. They also claim she had refused a water break request by one of the relay team members. Claiming this ultimately was a violation of the activity guidelines thus leading to unsafe track practices, which unfortunately ended with the death of a beloved track star Kaylin Abbott. The prosecution claimed, "This unfortunate accident could have all been avoided if not for coach Delaney's pride."

In response, the defense attempted to cast doubt on the certainty of the state's case, offering defendant Coach Delaney a chance on the stand. It was revealed that Coach Delaney was never informed of Kaylin's use of the drug prescription nor any request for a water break. It was also revealed that assistant coach Brown had denied their request and failed to follow Southern California High School guidelines on heat stress. Coach Delaney states "If I had known any of my athletes requested a water break I would have allowed it right away. If I had been informed of Kaylin's use of Strenaxall I would have made the appropriate accommodations."

In closing statement defense attorney, Erin Helsel delivered a heartfelt testimony stating "The prosecution is putting all the blame on one sole person.... And they should take a long hard look in the mirror." Further updates are to come.