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## The Criminal Case of Dorian Delaney

Dorian Delaney's faith was put in the jury's hands on February 22nd. Kylin Abbott died on August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024, after collapsing at an intense track practice. The blame was then put on Dorian Delaney. In the opening statements, the Prosecution declared their job was to prove Dorian Delaney is guilty of involuntary manslaughter and unlawful conduct towards a child. The defense insisted Delaney was innocent in this case. To prove this, they used 3 facts; Delaney was the 3<sup>rd</sup> adult to arrive and the 1<sup>st</sup> to call 911, Avery Abbott withheld medical information, and Kylin was the only athlete to collapse.

The state called three witnesses to the stand Bailey Brown, Avery Abbott, and Cameron Covington. Brown was the Assistant coach to Dorian Delaney. She recalls Delaney saying she wanted to, "Sweat the drops out of them." Brown says during a drill she noticed Kylin was slower than usual; however, Delaney insisted the girls continue. The state asked Brown to read the S.C. sport guidelines that recommended water breaks every 20 minutes; however, the girls got breaks every 40 minutes. Brown also did not follow the protocol of calling 911 right away. Next Avery Abbott, Kylin's mother, recalled noticing Kylin running slower than usual. After the collapse, she says she

noticed a “lack of urgency from coach Delaney.” During the cross examination, Abbott was asked about Kylin's medical form. This form showed that Kylin was on no medication, however she was taking Strenaxal and this was withheld from Delaney. Finally, Cameron Covington was the medical expert. From the hospital report, Dr. Covington believed Kylin was severely dehydrated and believed that caused death.

The defense then called their three witnesses, Frankie Fulton, Shay Erickson, and Dorion Delaney. First Frankie Fulton, she was Kylin's teammate. She described Delaney as “Tough but effective”. Fulton noted Kylin would take medication before practice. Fulton stated, “We’re runners, we’re used to the heat.” Next was Dr. Erickson, who was a medical expert. He believed Kylin was only mildly dehydrated. Dr. Erickson read the Strenaxal warning, which said that this medication can cause the body to overheat, erratic heartbeats, and people should avoid strenuous activities. This led Dr. Erickson to state, “Kylin Abbott died from a heat stroke from taking Strenaxal and not because of severe dehydration.” Finally Dorion Delaney, who is on trial. Delaney explained the drills the runners were doing were normal runs that she has been doing for the past 20 years. The last time Delaney saw Kylin, she looked fine. When Delaney finally reached Kylin after the collapse, 911 had not been called. Delaney says she did not know of the medication and “Knowing what I know now, I wouldn’t have pushed her so hard.”

To end the hearing, the prosecution summed up their argument by saying; Delaney did not do her job as a coach, she made the runners run an unreasonable amount, and water breaks were not frequent enough throughout practice. The defense stated; Three adults arrived before emergency services were called. Kylin was taking a

drug with fatal side effects, and only one runner died, the one runner who was taking Strenaxal.