



BRIEFS

MSU falls to Winona, takes 2nd in NSIC

MANKATO — The Minnesota State baseball team saw its nine-game winning streak snapped on Saturday as Winona State earned a 3-2 decision in a regular season-ending game at Bowyer Field.

MSU right-hander Trevor Divinski started and lasted just two innings to take the loss. He gave up two runs on three hits.

Mitch Frederick led the MSU attack, going 2 for 3 with a double. Jack Waletich and Ty Buck each had RBIs.

MSU ends up second in the final NSIC standings with a 28-8 record. Augustana finishes first at 29-6.

Next up for the Mavericks (38-11 overall) is the NSIC Tournament which begins Wednesday in St. Cloud.

Records fall at MSU Twilight meet

MANKATO — At the MSU Twilight track & field meet Saturday, the Mavericks' 4x400-meter men's relay team of John Schuster, Marquan Wiesen, Reid Diamond and Josh Phelps turned in the fifth fastest time in the nation this season at 3:09.77.

Setting meet records for the Mavericks were Victor Ogeka in the triple jump (50-feet-10.75). Sydne Davis in the 400 hurdles (52.12) and Deveyon Brown in the high jump (6-8).

Meet records on the women's side came from MSU's Grace Hartman in both 100 (11.91) and 200 meters (24.40) and Kaylee Jensen in the hammer throw (178-10).

Gustavus wins 1st MIAC title in 39 years

ST. PETER — The Gustavus Adolphus College baseball team ended a near 40-year drought on Saturday by winning the MIAC regular-season title with a split of a doubleheader against St. Olaf at the GAC field. Gustavus last won the MIAC regular-season title in 1980.

The Gusties (23-11, 14-6 in MIAC) dropped the first game 14-9 and won the second 10-6.

The Gusties will enter the MIAC Tournament at CHS Field as the No. 1 seed and will take on No. 4 seed St. Mary's in the opening round at 3 p.m. Thursday.

BLC baseball falls to St. Scholastica

MANKATO — A four-run ninth inning lifted St. Scholastica to an 11-7 win over Bethany Lutheran Saturday in the opening game of a UMAC doubleheader at Franklin Rogers Park.

Grant Becher, Ben Boran, Ross Beumer and Conner Side had two hits apiece for the Vikings. Boran drove in two runs and scored twice.

Logan Nissen took the loss in relief. The loss drops Bethany to 18-16 overall and 12-3 in the UMAC.

Scholastica led the second game 3-1 in the third innings when the paper went to press.

GAC wins 9th straight MIAC tennis tourney

ST. PETER — The Gustavus Adolphus men's tennis team won its ninth straight MIAC Tournament title Saturday with a 5-1 decision over Carleton. The win gives GAC an automatic berth into the national tournament.

Yassine Derbani and Nick Aney won in both singles and doubles for the Gusties.

The Free Press

Vikings come up short in UMAC championship game

Ronning belts two home runs for Northwestern

By Jim Rueda
 jrueda@mankatofreepress.com

MANKATO — Bethany Lutheran College's historic women's softball season came to a quick end Saturday afternoon as the Vikings lost 5-0 to Northwestern in the finals of the UMAC tournament.

Bethany potentially could have forced a second game if it had been able to pull off a win, but the Eagles controlled Saturday's matchup from start to finish. Left-handed sophomore pitcher Lexi Kopacek held Bethany to five hits and did not walk

a batter en route to the shutout victory.

"I knew this was possible," said Kopacek, who was on last year's Northwestern squad that won the same tournament. "We graduated only one player from that team so we were pretty optimistic."

The Eagles came into the competition as the fourth seed out of five teams and Kopacek said that may have put a little extra chip on their shoulders.

"Yeah, we felt like we had something to prove. We just came out and played a solid ballgame today and were

able to win it."

Northwestern first-year player Briggs Carlson, a graduate of Mankato West, ended up driving in the winning run in the top of the first inning by grounding a bases-loaded single through the left side for a 1-0 lead.

"I definitely made the right choice by picking Northwestern," Briggs said with a smile as her coach stood close by. "With so many people back I knew I was going to have to fight for playing time, but it's been a lot of fun. And we're not done yet."

The Eagles put up a two-spot in the first. Right after Carlson's RBI, Bethany relief pitcher Bria Majeski hit Megan Aasness with a pitch to send home



Photo by Jackson Forderer
 Bethany Lutheran's Eden Ambrose takes a swing at a pitch during the championship game of the UMAC tournament against Northwestern Saturday. Northwestern won 5-0 to earn a berth in the NCAA Division III national tournament.

another run.

Majeski matched Kopacek with zeros on the scoreboard for the next three

innings before Ellie Ronning drilled a solo homer over

Please see UMAC, Page D2

MSU softball catcher's funny videos are

A BIG HIT



File photo
 Minnesota State's Cori Kennedy (15) shows some of her personality as she jumps on home plate after hitting a home run during the Mavericks' 2017 national championship season.

Thousands follow, millions watch Kennedy's antics

By Shane Frederick
 sfrederick@mankatofreepress.com

Cori Kennedy thought she was "here for a good time, not for a long time."

That's the mantra, anyway, the Minnesota State softball catcher preaches on the so-called "quick, informational video" that she posted on Twitter last month, suggesting, in jest, that players "swing at every pitch, don't care where it is."

Turns out, Kennedy may be here for a long, long time.

The 39-second video shot in a batting cage last December was originally made as a joke to send to her five siblings. They were unimpressed, she said, but friends who thought it was funny eventually encouraged Kennedy post it to social media.

The video wasn't just a hit. Rather, it was, to use Kennedy's words after she blasted a ball off a tee, "outta here in any stadium you want to play in, guaranteed dinger."

Since posting it on April 10, the viral video has been viewed 2.15 million times, and Kennedy's followers have shot up to more than 26,000 on Twitter and 21,000 on Instagram.

She's since posted two more softball-related "instructional" videos that have more than a million views each and have inspired countless imitations and tributes, many

of which Kennedy has retweeted.

"When I thought of something going viral, I was like, 'Oh, all my teammates saw it, my family saw it, my friends saw it,' and that's cool," Kennedy said last week before her team headed to Rochester for the NSIC tournament. "But then I got people reaching out to me from Texas, Mississippi, all over the nation, and I'm like, 'Oh, wow, this really is viral.' ... It's been crazy. It's been a lot of fun."

In Kennedy's two hitting videos — the second, on slap hitting, takes her on a hilarious journey around town — she suggests intimidating opponents by holding a bat over one's head like a Samurai sword and pointing at the pitcher.

Young softball players around the country have posted videos of themselves doing the same and tagging Kennedy in them.

"It's been super fun," Kennedy said. "Some of these girls sending in videos are actually hitting absolute moon shots — and they're doing this in games, which is definitely not recommended."

Even Kennedy's opponents have gotten in on the fun.

"When we played against Upper Iowa, they were quoting my videos in the dugout," she said. "The first batter, some slap hitter, hit a foul ball, and one

Please see VIDEOS, Page D2

Derby DQ: Long shot wins after reversal

65-1 Country House ends up as winner

The Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, KY. — Maximum Security led the Kentucky Derby every step of the way except for the last one — into the winner's circle.

The colt became the first winner disqualified for interference in the Derby's 145-year history, leading to an agonizing wait and an eventual stunning reversal that made 65-1 shot Country House the winner Saturday.

Country House finished second in the slop before objections were raised, causing a 20-minute delay while stewards repeatedly reviewed several angles of video footage before he was elevated into the winner's circle.

That gave Hall of Fame trainer Bill Mott his first Derby victory at age 65.

"It's bittersweet. You always want to win with a clean trip and have everybody recognize the horse as the very good horse and great athlete that he is," Mott said. "Due to the disqualification, I think some of that is diminished."

Jockey Flavien Prat, who originated the claim of foul, also won his first Derby.

"I'm kind of speechless right now," Prat said, letting out a long sigh.

Country House paid \$132.40 to win — the second-highest payout in the Derby's 145-year history.

"Looking at the tote board there's probably a lot of people that didn't think we could win," Mott said, "but that's horse racing."

Country House was dismissed as a long shot with a bad post on the far outside. It was only the chestnut colt's second win in seven career starts and his first stakes victory.

Maybe this was one for his father: Lookin At Lucky got saddled with the dreaded No. 1 post in the 2010 Derby, where he got pinned to the rail and wound up sixth. He rebounded to win the Preakness two weeks later.

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MINNESOTA SPORTS T.V. SCHEDULE

Table with columns for days of the week (SUN 5, MON 6, TUE 7, WED 8, THU 9, FRI 10, SAT 11) and rows for TWINS and MINNESOTA UNITED.

TV TODAY

AUTO RACING 12:30 p.m. NBCSN — IMSA WeatherTech: Sports Car Championship, Lexington, Ohio 1 p.m. FS1 — NASCAR Monster Energy Cup Series: The Gander RV 400, Dover, Del. 5 p.m. FS1 — NHRA Drag Racing: NHRA Southern Nationals, Commerce, Ga.

Cleveland 5, Seattle 4 Kansas City 15, Detroit 3 Baltimore 3, Tampa Bay 0 Pittsburgh 6, Oakland 4 Boston 15, Chicago White Sox 2 Houston 14, L.A. Angels 2 Toronto at Texas Sunday's Games Tampa Bay (TBD) at Baltimore (Means 3-3), 12:05 p.m. Kansas City (Keller 2-3) at Detroit (Turnbull 2-2), 12:10 p.m. Seattle (Swanson 0-3) at Cleveland (Anderson 0-0), 12:10 p.m. Oakland (Montas 4-2) at Pittsburgh (Lyles 2-1), 12:35 p.m. Boston (Porcello 2-3) at Chicago White Sox (Covey 0-1), 1:10 p.m. Toronto (Buchholz 0-1) at Texas (Smyly 0-2), 2:05 p.m. Minnesota (Pineda 2-2) at N.Y. Yankees (German 5-1), 3:05 p.m. Houston (Verlander 4-1) vs. L.A. Angels (Harvey 1-2) at Monterrey, 3:10 p.m.

Handwalla Bwana (Will Bruin, 60th), Kim Kee-Hee, Chad Marshall, Brad Smith; Jordy Delem, Victor Rodriguez (Raul Ruidiaz, 65th), Cristian Roldan; Nicolas Lodeiro, Jordan Morris (Roman Torres, 79th) Minnesota-Vito Mannone: Brent Kallman, Romain Metanire, Eric Miller, Ike Opara; Osvaldo Alonso, Ethan Finlay (Romario Ibarra, 68th), Jan Gregus, Miguel Ibarra, Rasmus Schuller (Darwin Quintero, 76th); Angelo Rodriguez.

Golf

PGA Wells Fargo Championship Scores Saturday At Quail Hollow Club Charlotte, N.C. Purse: \$7.9 million Yardage: 7,554; Par 71 Third Round Max Homa 69-63-70-202 Jason Dufner 68-63-71-202 Joel Dahmen 66-66-70-202 Pat Perez 69-68-66-203 Rory McIlroy 66-70-68-204 Justin Rose 70-67-68-205 Paul Casey 69-71-66-206 Seamus Power 69-68-69-206 Sergio Garcia 69-73-65-207 Rickie Fowler 71-70-66-207 Doc Redman 70-70-67-207 Vaughn Taylor 68-71-68-207 Patrick Reed 67-69-71-207 Keith Mitchell 68-74-66-208 Colt Knost 73-68-67-208 Adam Schenk 67-74-67-208 Jhonattan Vegas 72-67-69-208 Aaron Wise 69-70-69-208 Rory Sabbatini 76-66-67-209 Kyle Stanley 69-69-71-209 Martin Laird 67-71-71-209 Adam Hadwin 73-69-68-210 Nate Lashley 71-70-69-210 John Sanden 68-73-69-210 Jim Knous 68-72-70-210 Kevin Streelman 71-69-70-210 Sungjae Im 70-69-71-210 Cody Gribble 71-72-68-211 Bud Cauley 73-70-68-211 Ollie Schniederjans 74-69-68-211 Ryan Blaum 71-72-68-211 Webb Simpson 69-73-69-211 Brice Garnett 70-71-70-211 Shawn Stefani 76-65-70-211 Dylan Frittelli 67-74-70-211 Henrik Stenson 74-67-70-211 Zach Reavie 70-71-70-211 Lucas Glover 70-69-72-211 Sebastian Muñoz 68-70-73-211 Brendon Todd 68-69-74-211 Chase Wright 71-72-68-212 Joaquin Niemann 73-70-69-212 Brian Harman 68-75-69-212 Daniel Berger 73-69-70-212 Kyoung-Hoon Lee 72-70-70-212 Bill Haas 69-72-71-212 Alex Prugh 73-68-71-212 Matt Jones 70-70-72-212 Richy Werenski 70-69-73-212 Julián Etlam 73-70-70-213 Hideki Matsuyama 73-69-71-213 Brandon Harkins 70-72-71-213 Roberto Diaz 72-70-71-213 Byoung Hun An 72-70-71-213 Kramer Hickok 72-69-72-213 Jimmy Walker 71-70-72-213 Tony Finau 67-75-72-213 Nick Taylor 75-68-71-214 Luke List 70-72-72-214 J.J. Henry 70-72-72-214 Nick Watney 71-71-72-214 Harris English 72-69-73-214 Trey Mullinax 70-71-73-214 Adam Long 70-70-74-214 Wes Roach 70-71-74-215 Tom Hoge 70-70-75-215 Zack Suerch 72-71-73-216 Hank Lebioda 71-72-74-217 Matthew Short 76-67-74-217 Brendan Steele 72-70-75-217 Beau Hossler 69-72-76-217 Fabián Gómez 70-69-80-219

Twins Box Score

Twins 7, Yankees 3 Box score table with columns for ab, r, h, bi and rows for Minnesota and New York.

Twins 7, Yankees 3 Box score table with columns for IP, H, R, ER, BB, SO and rows for Minnesota and New York.

National League

National League Standings table with columns for W, L, Pct, GB and rows for East Division, Central Division, and West Division.

Friday's Games

Chicago Cubs 4, St. Louis 0 Oakland 14, Pittsburgh 1 Philadelphia 4, Washington 2 Atlanta 7, Miami 2 San Francisco 12, Cincinnati 11, 11 innings Milwaukee 3, N.Y. Mets 1 Arizona 10, Colorado 9 L.A. Dodgers 4, San Diego 3

Saturday's Games

Chicago Cubs 6, St. Louis 5 Atlanta 9, Miami 2 Washington 10, Philadelphia 8 Pittsburgh 6, Oakland 4 Cincinnati 9, San Francisco 2 Arizona 9, Colorado 2 N.Y. Mets at Milwaukee L.A. Dodgers at San Diego

Sunday's Games

Atlanta (Teheran 2-4) at Miami (Lopez 2-4), 12:10 p.m. Oakland (Montas 4-2) at Pittsburgh (Lyles 2-1), 12:35 p.m. Washington (Sanchez 0-4) at Philadelphia (Elin 3-3), 1:05 p.m. N.Y. Mets (Vargas 1-1) at Milwaukee (Davies 3-0), 1:10 p.m. Arizona (Greinke 5-1) at Colorado (Marquez 3-2), 2:10 p.m. L.A. Dodgers (Maeda 3-2) at San Diego (Margreke 2-3), 3:10 p.m. San Francisco (Sarmardzija 2-1) at Cincinnati (Castillo 3-1), 3:10 p.m. St. Louis (Wainwright 3-2) at Chicago Cubs (Quintana 3-1), 6:05 p.m.

NHL Playoffs

CONFERENCE SEMIFINALS (Best-of-7; x-if necessary) Friday, May 3 Carolina 5, N.Y. Islanders 2, Carolina wins series 4-0 Dallas 2, St. Louis 1, Dallas leads series 3-2 Saturday, May 4 Boston 4, Columbus 3, Boston leads the series 3-2 Colorado at San Jose Sunday, May 5 St. Louis at Dallas, 2 p.m. Monday, May 6 Boston at Columbus, 6 p.m. San Jose at Colorado, 9 p.m.

NBA Playoffs

CONFERENCE SEMIFINALS (Best-of-7; x-if necessary) Thursday, May 2 Philadelphia 116, Toronto 95, Philadelphia leads series 2-1 Friday, May 3 Milwaukee 123, Boston 116, Milwaukee leads series 2-1 Portland 140, Denver 137, 4OT, Portland leads series 2-1 Saturday, May 4 Houston 126, Golden State, 121, OT, Golden State leads series 2-1 Sunday, May 5 Toronto at Philadelphia, 2:30 p.m. Denver at Portland, 6 p.m. Monday, May 6 Milwaukee at Boston, 6 p.m. Golden State at Houston, 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 7 Philadelphia at Toronto, 7 p.m. Portland at Denver, 9:30 p.m.

MLS

Minnesota United Box Score Seattle 1, Minnesota 0-1 Minnesota 1, Seattle 0-1 First half—1, Minnesota, Opara, 1 (Gregus), 26th minute; 2, Seattle, Roldan, 2, 42nd. Second half—None. Goals—Seattle, Stefan Frei, Bryan Meredith; Minnesota, Vito Mannone, Bobby Shuttleworth. Yellow Cards—Minnesota, Gregus, 45th. Referee—Tim Ford. Assistant Referees—Brian Dunn; Cory Richardson; Ricardo Salazar. 4th Official—Guido Gonzales Jr. A-19,832. Lineups Seattle—Stefan Frei, Saad Abdul-Salaam,

WEEK IN SPORTS

SUNDAY Bethany Lutheran baseball vs. Hamline, 1 p.m., BLC Field.

MONDAY Mankato West boys tennis at New Ulm, 4 p.m. Mankato West softball at Rochester Mayo, 5 p.m.

TUESDAY Mankato West girls golf vs. Owatonna, 2 p.m., North Links Golf Course. Mankato West boys golf at Owatonna, 2:30 p.m. Mankato West baseball doubleheader at Northfield, 4 p.m. Mankato West softball vs. Northfield, 5 p.m., West field.

WEDNESDAY Mankato East baseball vs. Owatonna, doubleheader, 4 p.m., Wolverton Field. Mankato East softball doubleheader vs. Winona, 4 p.m., Thomas Park. Mankato East boys tennis vs. Owatonna, 4:30 p.m., East courts. Mankato boys lacrosse at Owatonna, 7:30 p.m., Rochester Mayo High School.

THURSDAY Mankato girls lacrosse vs. Rochester Mayo, 5:45 p.m., Dakota Meadows field. Mankato Loyola/Cleveland boys girls track and field at Maple River, 4 p.m. Mankato Loyola baseball at Madelia, 4:30 p.m. St. Clair/Loyola softball vs. Madelia, 5 p.m., St. Clair.

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Photo by Jackson Forderer. Bria Majeski of Bethany Lutheran delivers a pitch to a University of Northwestern batter during Saturday's game UMAC softball tournament finals.

UMAC: Vikings come up short in game

Continued from Page D1

the fence in center field to make it a 3-0 game. Northwestern added two more insurance runs in the seventh with a help of a double by Faith Forcier, a sacrifice fly by Kayla Madison and another home run to center by Ronning.

Ronning finished 3 for 4 with two RBIs and three runs scored. The Eagles had eight hits in all. Zoe Kinakin was the only multiple-hitter for Bethany, going 2 for 3. Sarah Pressler, Majeski and Julia Pfeiffer had the other hits for the Vikings.

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Northwestern deserved it; they played good ball the whole tournament," Bethany coach Dan Nessler said. "We didn't play that well ourselves, and its tough to beat a good team when you don't play well."

Although disappointed with the loss, Nessler sees a bright future for the Bethany program. "This is a stepping stone season for us," he said. We won 27 games this year and the previous program record was 23.

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With the good players we have coming back and the talented players we have coming in we're only going to get better. I see us contending for this championship every year."

Bethany ends the season 27-12. Northwestern (27-15) gets an automatic bid into the NCAA Division III national tournament, which starts with regional competition on Friday.

Jim Rueda is The Free Press Sports Editor. Follow him on Twitter @JimRueda.

VIDEOS: Catcher's videos are big hit

Continued from Page D1

of her teammates goes, 'Use the ground!' and the rest of the team was like, 'What ground?' I looked in the dugout and smiled, and they all laughed and lost it."

"What ground?" refers to hitting home runs, not base hits, one of the many clever quips she uses.

"A lot of it is just a lot of dumb stuff I say off the top of my head, but people seem to like it," she said.

Kennedy, a West Concord native and Kasson-Mantorville High School graduate, said she comes from a hilarious, sarcastic family. That applies to her five siblings as well as her grand-ma, whom she's featured on other funny videos.

"People call us the Crazy Kennedys because we're just off the hook," Kennedy said. "And the joke is: If you can survive the Kennedy household for a weekend, you can survive anything. So it's definitely in the blood."

Kennedy, whose third softball video features her putting bows in her hair and eye black on her face before a game, also has videos on social media showcasing her singing and piano playing.

After catching a glimpse of Kennedy's many talents, Minnesota State's associate athletic director for communications, Paul Allan, asked her to emcee last week's Maverick Achievement Awards.

"It's not contrived," Allan said. "Not everyone can do that. She's naturally funny and sincere. There's a subtlety to her humor. She's self-confident in a good way. ... Cori's pretty intelligent about this kind of stuff."

As a sophomore, Kennedy gained notoriety for catching in all 71 games in the

Mavericks knocked out of NSIC tournament

The Free Press

ROCHESTER — Minnesota State was knocked out of the NSIC softball tournament on Saturday with a 4-0 loss to top-seeded Winona State in the elimination bracket.

Amber Kral finished the 2 for 3 for the Mavericks, while Kayla Moky and Torey Richards each had one hit off winning pitcher Liz Pautz, who recorded her 19th win.

Minnesota State pitcher Lexi Schoper took the loss, pitching six innings and allowing one earned run on five hits with two walks and no strikeouts.

The Warriors scored two runs in the bottom of the first inning thanks to a walk, hit and error. Winona State added runs in the third and sixth innings.

Minnesota State (37-20) will await the announcement of the NCAA regional brackets on Monday morning to see if its season will continue. The Mavericks were 10th in the latest Central Regional rankings, which came out Wednesday. Three conference tournament champions will receive automatic bids to the Central Regional, and five at-large spots will be determined by ranking.

Mavericks' national championship season. Going into this year's conference tournament, she was hitting .364 with five home runs, a .545 slugging percentage and 27 RBIs. Named second-team all-conference last week along with teammate McKenzie Paap, Kennedy has 15 career home runs.

And right now, she might be the most-famous Division II softball player in the country. She recently landed an interview on a national college softball show on the ESPNU channel on SiriusXM satellite radio.

Kennedy will graduate from Minnesota State in a week, and, while a month ago, she wasn't exactly sure what her future would hold, she suddenly has new options, thanks to her newfound fame.

A mass media major who's currently interning at the university's radio station, KMSU, Kennedy was recently asked to be a commentator/broadcaster for the Aussie Peppers, the new National Pro Fastpitch team that will play in Mankato this summer.

And there certainly will be more videos, too. "I might as well take it and run with it because it seems to be a hit," she said. "I was thinking about starting a YouTube channel — I can't believe those people out there making a living off YouTube — and I know I want to make merchandise; I have some ideas for that. ..."

"All this attention has opened quite a few doors." Follow Shane Frederick on Twitter @puckato.

DERBY: Long shot wins after reversal

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The disqualification was a crushing turn of events for Maximum Security trainer Jason Servis and jockey Luis Saez, who already had begun celebrating what they thought were their first Derby victories.

Instead, previously undefeated Maximum Security was dropped to 17th of 19 horses. Sent off as the 9-2 second choice, Maximum Security was placed behind all the horses that he both-ered.

"I never put anybody in danger," Saez said. Servis backed up his jockey, saying: "He's right. He straightened him up right away and I didn't

think it affects the outcome of the race."

Prat claimed that Maximum Security ducked out in the final turn and forced several horses to steady, including Long Range Toddy, whose jockey, Jon Court, also lodged an objection. War of Will came perilously close to clipping heels with Maximum Security, which could have caused a chain-reaction accident.

"There were two horses in the race that lost all chance to win a Kentucky Derby," Mott said. "They were in position at the time to hit the board. If what happened to us was the only thing they were looking at I don't think you would have seen a disqualification."

Mott said the incident was caused by Maximum Security's action and not Saez's riding tactics.

"I don't think Luis Saez did anything intentionally," the trainer said. "My heart actually aches for them a little bit."

The stewards reviewed race footage while keeping the crowd of 150,729 and millions more watching on television and online in suspense, clutching their betting tickets. Trainers and jockeys involved stared at the closest video screen waiting for a result.

"I know the stewards had a very, very difficult decision," Mott said. "I'm damn glad they put our number up."