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## Moonee Valley fall rider Jamie Evans sues

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Article from:

**Herald Sun**

**Norrie Ross**

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### **FORMER champion jumps jockey Jamie Evans is suing Moonee Valley Racing Club and Racing Victoria over a sickening fall that all but ended his career.**

In his County Court claim, Evans -- who had a colourful and injury-stricken career -- blames a dangerous aluminium running rail and its metal uprights on the course for his injuries.

Evans says the club and Racing Victoria could have installed flexible plastic rails that would eliminate or reduce the injuries caused to jockeys when they fall.

He is seeking unspecified compensation for his injuries, loss of earnings and potential earning capacity.

The issue of dangerous running rails has been an ongoing point of dispute between racing authorities and jockeys.

Evans, 38, was riding Grand National winner Enzed in the Dominant Hurdle at Moonee Valley on July 30, 2005, when his mount crashed at a hurdle.

He was thrown into the rail and sustained injuries to his lower back, left hip and right knee.

Moonee Valley is the venue for today's Cox Plate and it is believed the same aluminium rails are being used.

Evans claims that, as a result of the fall, he also suffered psychological injuries, including depression, stress and anxiety.

Solicitor Anthony Carbone, of Nowicki Carbone Lawyers, said his client was in a "really bad state" and undergoing rehabilitation.

"Jamie's future as Australia's leading jumps jockey has been ruined as a result of this accident. It has shattered his personal and working life," Mr Carbone said.

"His plan to continue his international riding career in England has been destroyed because of the injuries sustained in the fall."

Mr Carbone said the issue was wider than Evans's injuries, as the danger of being thrown into running rails was a constant hazard to all jockeys.

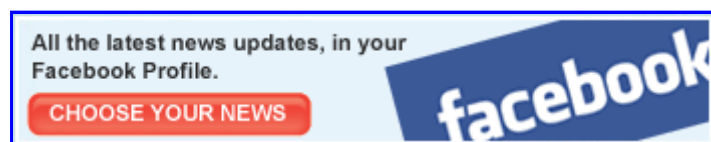
"The accident has highlighted the safety problems faced by jockeys in their workplace," he said.

"It has led to some changes, however, much more needs to be done in order to protect the health and safety of jockeys in the future."

Evans is one of Australia's most successful jumps jockeys and has also ridden winners in Britain. His career highlights include two Grand National Hurdle wins, two Hiskens Steeplechases, two Great Easterns, two Grand Annuals and three Cup Day Hurdles.

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**Battling:** Jamie Evans has physical and mental scars.

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