

Demons wait on Neitz as Saints say ...

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Michael Stevens

ST KILDA coach Grant Thomas says there is no doubt key players Fraser Gehrig and Matt Maguire will be fit for tomorrow night's qualifying final against Adelaide.

But Melbourne will sweat on captain David Neitz getting through today's 10am training session at Junction Oval before he is passed fit to play in tomorrow's elimination final against Geelong.

Thomas said Gehrig (groin) and Maguire (hip) had not been risked against the Brisbane Lions last weekend.

"They'll just train as normal," Thomas said. "It will just be a really sharp 30-minute session. We don't expect there will be any problems."

The Saints have also included defender Sam Fisher, who has recovered from a foot injury, and tough utility Brent Guerra, back in favour after missing the past two rounds.

St Kilda is using a revolutionary lymphatic drainage system to help recovery from soft-tissue injuries.

The system has been used successfully by top trainers Lee Freedman and John McArdle to treat racehorses.

Recommended by former top jockey Simon Marshall, the system has proved superior to hyperbaric chamber use, according to Saints manager of training services, Chris Jones.

"It's not been available before this year," Jones said last night. "In our experience it has changed our emphasis away from things like hyperbaric chambers, which can be expensive and time-consuming and difficult to get to."

Neitz has not trained this week because of a strained right posterior cruciate ligament and had a cortisone injection on Monday to try to settle the injury.

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