



Steven King

## Saint's payout

DAVID HASTIE

ST KILDA ruckman Steven King has agreed to pay \$10,000 to a man he allegedly bashed after last year's Grand Final.

King made the deal on Tuesday to pay restaurant worker "John" — who does not wish to be identified — at a registrar's pre-hearing conference at Melbourne Magistrates' Court.

The civil action is this year's first controversy for the Saints.

Lawyers for King unsuccessfully applied for a confidentiality clause to be included in the settlement.

John's lawyer, Larry Dent, of Arnold Thomas & Becker, said his client alleged he was hit in the throat and punched in the face by King in St Kilda during the early hours of September 29.

Mr Dent said the alleged attack was not provoked and his client was not drunk.

"(John) wasn't really after financial compensation, he just was very upset that a person could act in this way on a public street," Mr Dent said.

No assault charges were laid so there was no criminal conviction against King.

John allegedly suffered throat injuries, black eye, bruising and shock. He claimed aggravated and punitive damages.

King has until Tuesday to pay.