

Fan sues, claiming ...

Saints star 'hit me'

SUE HEWITT

AN assistant restaurant manager claims St Kilda ruckman Steven King attacked him without provocation in the early hours after Grand Final day.

The former Geelong captain — who marries his fiancée in Bali today — is facing a compensation claim of up to \$100,000 in Melbourne Magistrates' Court.

The alleged victim launched the civil action on Friday after claiming he was offered free football tickets as compensation.

No criminal charges have been laid and King's manager, Ricky Nixon, said: "I have investigated (the claims) and don't think that Steven has any concerns."

King could not be contacted because he is in Bali to wed model Danielle Atkin.

The alleged victim's lawyer, Larry Dent, of Arnold Thomas & Becker, said the alleged attack was "extraordinary".

He said his client "John" — who does not want to be identified — was shocked by the incident.

John claimed St Kilda offered him a few free football tickets, while Mr Nixon made an "inadequate" offer.

He made a statement to police on Monday, but officers would not confirm any investigation on Friday, saying they would comment only if charged.



Injury claim: The alleged victim's black eye.



Civil action: St Kilda ruckman Steven King.

es were laid. Mr Dent said his client alleged he was assaulted by King twice in Fitzroy St, St Kilda, in the early hours of September 29.

John was with a friend from Chile, whom he was urging to follow football, when he saw King and called out a greeting, Mr Dent said.

He said King allegedly hit John in the throat and he fell to the ground outside the Robata bar.

"John recovered and

started to walk to his car, which was co-incidentally in the same direction as Mr King had walked," he said.

"Mr King was with another man and this man started remonstrating with my client in a most aggressive manner.

"Mr King came up behind the other man and threw a punch, hitting John in the face." The alleged attack was not provoked and his client was not drunk, he said.

"John recognised Mr King and called out 'Hey, Kingy, how are you going?'," he said.

"It is possible Mr King thought John was involved in the earlier argument."

He said John suffered throat and facial injuries, a black eye, bruising and shock and was claiming aggravated and punitive damages.

St Kilda spokesman Matt Schmidt said he was aware of an allegation against King, but denied the club had offered football tickets to the alleged victim.