Top fancy fit to shake the Slipper

By WARWICK BARR

EARTHQUAKE has been cleared to take her place in the $3.5 million Golden Slipper after an early morning gallop yesterday and a late afternoon veterinary inspection.

The Slipper favourite, treated with Anthony Cummings because of a landslip, eased the concerns of trainer Peter Snowden and jockey Kerrin McEvoy who worked Earthquake at Warwick Farm and he delivered with a solid piece of work at 6.20am yesterday with a late afternoon饲养.

“Essentially, the problem she had was over and she will present as a fit racehorse for Saturday,” deputy chief steward Greg Rudolph said.

Snowden told stewards on Tuesday there had been a minor spike in the filly’s temperature, forcing the Darley Australia trainer to change Earthquake’s training routine.

Racing limestone jockeys Kerrin McEvoy worked Earthquake at Warwick Farm and he delivered the news Snowden and the rest of the Darley team wanted to hear.

“She gave me a nice feel in her work and it certainly points to her getting there on Saturday in really good order,” McEvoy said.

Earthquake has dominated betting on Saturday’s Golden Slipper since winning the Blue Diamond Stakes in February.

She eased marginally to $2.30 after Tuesday’s barrier trial but remains a clear top pick in the race.

McEvoy said: “In three years we hope to increase that number to 100 and more as we go along.”

Frawley said the centre was “the culmination of Long’s dream and a complex puzzle that involved establishing NT Thunder in the NEAFL competition, the AFLNT’s 10 remote projects and a building to complement them.”

“The weather bureau has toughened up its forecast,” McEvoy said. “It’s a bit of a head-scratcher today and against an upgrade.

At the moment it’s one step forward and two steps backwards.

We got 14 millimetres on Sunday night which we didn’t need.”

Footrot Flats

WEST Coast midfielder Sharpey was quick to think about the club’s flag chances, saying the team wasn’t sure how much they’ve improved until they encounter a few AFL heavyweights.

The Eagles finished 13th last year in a season curated by injury, and they were expected to some time to get going in 2014 under new coach Adam Simpson.

But big wins over the Western Bulldogs (65 points) and Melbourne Demons (93) have thrust West Coast into top spot, fueling talk the Eagles could be a surprise flag contender this year.

West Coast are hot favourites to post another thumping victory when they host St Kilda on Saturday night.

But the three-time premiers will get a clearer picture of where they stand over the next month when they take on Geelong (SS), Port Adelaide, Carlton (ES) and Fremantle.

“Outside the club, everyone’s loving us wallowing teams by huge margins,” Wel-lingham said yesterday.

“But the hype’s not that big inside the walls of the club.

“We haven’t had a massive test yet.

“We’ve played really well, but there hasn’t been any close games. That’s when we’ll really see how we’ve developed.”

Frawley said the Thunder program, from schoolboy level to the senior side competing in the NEAFL, would take off when the centre was right to go.

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