

Hobart fancies keep their powder dry

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The two Sydney to Hobart line honours favourites opted to keep their powder dry on the last weekend before the great race, but the bookies reckon they have little to worry about.

Both five time line honours winner Wild Oats XI and Investec LOYAL opted not to contest the two weekend races outside Sydney Heads.

Wild Oats XI had a rub down on Saturday to make sure the bottom of the boat was smooth and went for a sail on Sunday.

Rival supermaxi Investec LOYAL, second across the line last year, had a media call on Saturday before going for a sail.

Among those on board was Roosters NSW and Kangaroos rugby league star Anthony Minichiello.

The veteran fullback wasn't able to participate in last Tuesday's Big Boat Challenge because he was training with the Roosters.

He had a three-day pre-season army camp to look forward to later this week before rejoining the boat.

Minichiello sailed on Saturday and has done a few training sessions aboard the boat, but has yet to encounter any nasty weather..

"Every time I've been on the boat it's been a beautiful day," Minichiello told AAP.

"I haven't experienced the big seas yet, but I'm sure that will happen as we go down to Hobart."

Investec LOYAL is rated the only major threat to Wild Oats XI taking line honours for the sixth time in seven years.



Wild Oats XI (Pic) and Investec LOYAL remain firm Sydney to Hobart favourites.