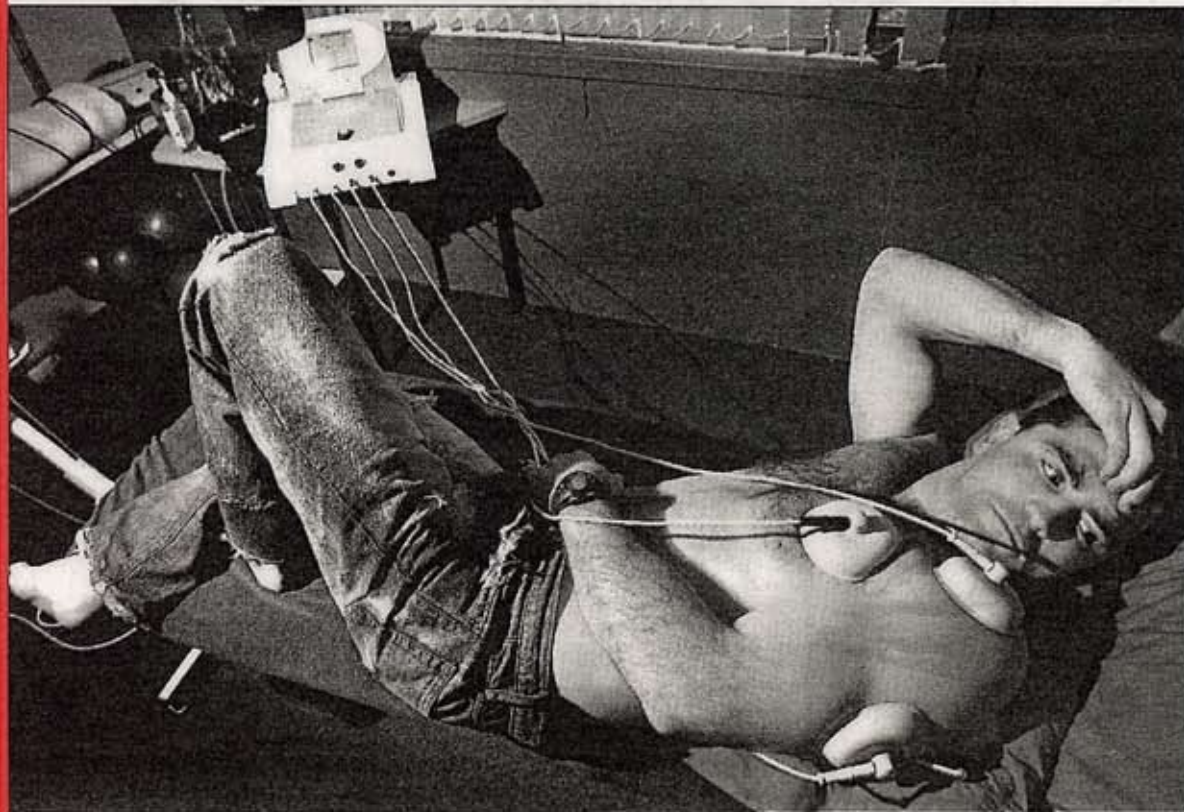


Kearns goes with flow



All wired up: Robbie Kearns receives treatment on his shoulder yesterday. Picture: COLLEEN PETCH

MELBOURNE Storm has turned to a revolutionary new recovery system known as Bodyflow in a last-ditch effort to get props Robbie Kearns and Dennis Scott on the field for tomorrow night's elimination semi-final.

The new technology has been used extensively by St Kilda in the AFL this season.

Kearns and Scott, who are battling to overcome shoulder injuries, face fitness tests this afternoon.

Scott is expected to play against North Queensland, but Kearns is only a 50-50 chance.

The Storm captain conceded he was still feeling "as weak as a kitten" yesterday.

But Storm physiotherapist Mary Toomey is more confident about Kearns's prospects.

"Kearnsy has improved quicker in five days than any person that I have ever worked on with a dislocated shoulder," Toomey said.

"He has come on enormously, but again he hasn't trained yet and he is still in a bit of pain. We'll give him until Saturday and see what happens."

Toomey said Storm had been offered use of a Bodyflow machine by St Kilda physio Michael Vadiveloo.

"Bodyflow basically runs an electric current through the tissue," Toomey said.

Karl deKroo

"It affects the blood and lymph vessels and very specifically facilitates the clearing of swelling from the tissue. St Kilda footy club offered us the use of theirs, but the company got word of that and then offered us a new one.

"The guys have used it daily, and it has seemed to improve things dramatically."

Toomey said fullback Billy Slater, who had made a rapid recovery from an ankle injury, could play again this season.

"Billy has improved a great deal since the start of the week, and if we were to make the grand final, he would be a definite chance," Toomey said.

Scott and Kearns will face fitness tests at a closed training session at Sydney's Wentworth Park this afternoon. Forwards Jamie Feeney and Ian Donnelly are both expected to travel with the team to provide some extra cover.

Bellamy said Kearns, who will retire at the end of the season, would have the final say on whether he played or not.

"He knows if we lose, it will be his last game," Bellamy said.

"But he has assured me that won't cloud his judgment. We'll do all the tests and what not, but he has been in this game long enough to know what he can play with and what he can't. It will be his call."