

# FNQ boxer wins silver

THE international stage beckons Cairns boxer Kenneth Dalton after he took light heavyweight silver at the Oceania Games in New Zealand on the weekend.

Dalton's trainer Gavan James said his young charge would now target overseas bouts in preparation for a possible assault on the Commonwealth Games in September after his medal-winning performance.

Dalton cruised into the light heavyweight final with two victories to book a showdown with national champion Justin Crawford, a boxer quickly becoming his nemesis.

Twice Dalton had faced the champ previously and twice the Cairns youngster had lost in a split points decision.

Dalton again went the

distance on the weekend, only to lose out on points.

But it was only a matter of time before Dalton cracked the big one according to James.

"After the fight Crawford said to Kenneth that he was the toughest bloke he had met in his life," James said.

"Kenneth is happy with where he is placed at the moment and where he is headed. He had a goal to grab the limelight on a world class scale and he has done that so now he will be looking at more international fights.

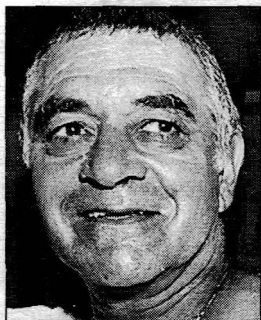
James said Dalton would most likely return to the AIS in Canberra where he had spent his Oceania Games build-up.

He said Dalton's next move would be determined there.

"They like what they see in Kenneth and will probably make the next move for him, whether it be an overseas fight or whatever," he said.

"He's at an important time of his career where he has started to get international recognition but he has a lot of improvement left in him."

Dalton shot to national prominence last year with State and Golden Gloves titles and silver at the national titles.



**JAMES:** "They like what they see."