

Olympic shot for boxer

FOUR consecutive State titles has left Cairns boxer Kenneth Dalton feeling far from satisfied.

Not that Dalton could ever lay claim to the underachiever tag.

The 22-year-old claimed his fourth State title in as many years on the Sunshine Coast on the weekend but saved the celebrations for another goal — Olympic selection.

The Sydney 2000 path had been blurred by opponents, red tape and injury for Dalton, but now it is clear cut — win Oceania Games gold at Western Samoa early next year and you're in.

Fresh from his State title points victory against Gladstone's Ben Mc-

By Laine Clark

Cracken, Dalton must now impress at the national titles in Darwin in November.

The top two light heavyweights at the nationals receive the Oceania Games nod — and whoever wins gold there immediately qualifies for Sydney.

The Olympic vacancy will almost certainly come down to Dalton, reigning Australian champion Jeff Erichsen and New South Welshman Jason Delsles.

Dalton has grown increasingly frustrated by what he claims as favourable treatment by the national body towards Delsles, and plans to do something about it.

"I have bad intentions toward Delsles

for the national titles. I have a point to prove," Dalton said.

"Jason has received some pretty good treatment (from the national body) and gone on the international trips ahead of not only myself but also Jeff (Erichsen) who is the national champ.

"I want to show the national selectors what I have."

The Olympic boxing staff received a teaser at the State titles on the weekend.

So impressed were they with Dalton's gold medal stint he was invited to stay on and train with the English Olympic boxing squad on the Sunshine Coast.

Dalton will train with the Englishmen until Friday in a dream lead-up to the nationals.

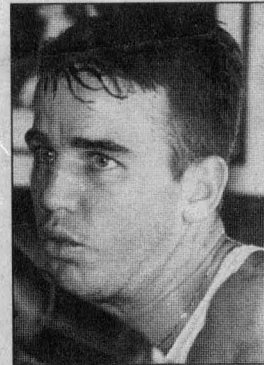
"There is plenty to learn from these guys. There are three Commonwealth Games gold medalists among them — I am very excited about it," Dalton said.

"The English guys are over here to acclimitise for Sydney, test out the facilities, stuff like that — I am just happy to be among them."

But the national titles will not be far from Dalton's thoughts.

One advantage is they will be held in Darwin — a happy hunting ground for Dalton. He has won two Arafura Games gold medals there in as many years.

"I am pretty pumped up," Dalton said. "The gold medalist at the Oceania Games goes to the Olympics — it's that clear cut. This is crunch time for me."



DALTON: Point to prove to selectors.