

Draper finishes ninth



Australian slalom kayaker Warwick Draper has finished ninth after two good performances in the semi-final and final of the K1.

Draper was 18th of 25 competitors in the heats but lifted himself into the final with the 10th-best time of the semis. He then recorded the seventh-best time in the final and his combined time left him ninth, around six-and-a-half seconds out of the medals.

"It was always going to be tough to make the top 10 and I was going to have to perform pretty close to my best," he told AAP.

"My ultimate goal would have been a medal," the 27-year-old from Melbourne added.

The gold medal went to Frenchman Benoit Peschier by 2.21 seconds from Briton Campbell Walsh, who had been fastest in the semis. Another Frenchman, Fabien Lefevre, took the bronze.

In the men's C2, Slovaks Pavol and Peter Hochshorner defended their Olympic title won in Sydney while Marcus Becker and Stefan Henze of Germany claimed the silver and Jaroslav Volf and Ondrej Stepanek from the Czech Republic the bronze.