

## ROPATI-FROST OVERCOMES MORE HURDLES

It just wouldn't be a major weightlifting event for Queensland's Erika Ropati-Frost without a major drama in the lead-up.

But as she has proven already this year, there are few athletes of any persuasion more focused and driven once they step into competition.

Ropati-Frost today became the 53kg 2014 Olitek Australian Weightlifting Champion when she lifted a combined total of 171kgs in Melbourne.

In the lead-up to today's event, the 27-year-old 3-time Commonwealth Games athlete slammed her finger in a door, and then got caught, along with a whole swag of fellow athletes, in yesterday's fierce Brisbane storms.

The lifters eventually arrived in Melbourne at 2am this morning.

Just months out from this year's Glasgow Commonwealth Games, Ropati-Frost's husband, Tuvale, was diagnosed with cancer, but insisted his wife compete at her third Games.

Also today 18-year-old Victorian James Delaney won a thrilling duel in the men's 62kg, finishing just one kilogram ahead of Queensland's David Hockins.

And another 18-year-old, Victoria's Rachel Goodman, underlined once again her enormous potential by winning the women's 63kg division.

Goodman is the daughter of two-time Australian Olympian, Harvey.

The Olitek Australian Weightlifting Championships continue tomorrow and Sunday in Melbourne, with several of Australia's Commonwealth Games team scheduled to compete.