



Crowe's Saloon Bar Brawl

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HOLLYWOOD star Russell Crowe was knocked to the ground and had to be physically restrained after a nightclub fight, The Daily Telegraph has learned.

As the fight spilled out into the street, Crowe struggled to break free from friends as a man goaded him until police arrived.

The 35-year-old actor was scratched under the eye and the other man suffered a broken thumb and what appeared to be a bite wound to the neck.

Crowe had earlier that night gone to see friend Mark Lizotte perform at the Sawtell RSL Club near his northern NSW home.

After leaving the club with his brother Terry and friends from the area in the early hours of Thursday morning, he went to the Saloon Bar, a Coffs Harbour nightclub which is popular with locals.

A friend said Crowe had been in good spirits although he was becoming annoyed after being consistently approached by strangers.

"Some girls were flirting with him and their boyfriends were getting jealous," the friend said.

The fight began as Crowe was leaving the Saloon Bar about 3.30am.

Witnesses said the fight appeared to have started after an argument about two young women.

The two men wrestled and Crowe was knocked to the ground.

Marty Phillips, owner of the Coffs Harbour Hotel, said he physically restrained Crowe after the trouble started.

"It was just one of those things. He was being provoked by an unruly sort of person and I just didn't want to see him have any problems," Mr Phillips said.

"He was fired up but that's about as far as it went.

"I just wanted to protect him.

"It was the end of a good night, one of those things, it could happen to anyone."

It is believed police arrived and sent the two men on their way.



However, Coffs Harbour police yesterday refused to confirm that Russell Crowe was involved in any incident.

"It has been indicated to police that there will be no complaint made by any person about an alleged assault last week," Detective Senior Constable Paul Atkinson said.

"As a result police will be taking no action at this stage."

A spokesman for the Sawtell RSL Club confirmed Crowe had been at the concert in the Princess Room but there had been no trouble during the night.

"He just seemed to be enjoying himself like everyone else," the spokesman said.

Regulars at the Coffs Harbour Hotel said Crowe was "just like one of the boys".