

Crowe Big Hit In Club

By Roger Maynard

November 25, 1999

Australian actor Russell Crowe was knocked to the ground during a nightclub punch-up near his home.

The 35-year-old, who shot to international fame after starring in the hit American film *LA Confidential*, was goaded by another patron at the Saloon Bar nightclub in Coffs Harbour, New South Wales.

A friend said some of the girls in the club were flirting with the actor and their boyfriends got jealous, the Daily Telegraph reported yesterday.

As he left the club an argument started over two young women and Crowe was wrestled to the ground by another man.

Both suffered minor injuries - Crowe a scratch under an eye and his assailant a broken thumb and what appeared to be a bite wound to the neck.

The owner of the bar, Marty Phillips, said he was forced to physically restrain Crowe at one stage.

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

Police said they would not be taking any action.

Crowe, famous for his fiery temperament, starred as a skinhead in the Australian film *Romper Stomper* in 1992.