

Teenies claw Cassidy

Pop idol, David Cassidy, had a toenail broken, neck scratched and his hair pulled as screaming teenyboppers mobbed him at Melbourne Airport today.

More than 300 screaming fans jumped barricades.

They battled with armed Commonwealth police and airport security men as they tried to touch their idol.

One young girl was trampled in the rush. Still crying, she tried to crawl on her knees after Cassidy.

Cassidy, 24, with arms flailing about his head to ward off his fans, was helped from the aircraft gate to the Ansett VIP room by police officials.

In the confines of the VIP room, with screaming fans hammering on the doors, Cassidy said: "Who organised the security for this thing?"

He then asked for a drink of iced water.

Slumping in a chair exhausted and sweating, Cassidy said he did not expect anything of this nature to happen.

Tour organisers spoke quietly in Cassidy's ear. But he snapped back: "Why talk about it later."

"This is really a bad scene."

Cassidy is in Melbourne to present the TV Week King of Pop awards tomorrow night.

Cassidy said his back was scratched and his neck was clawed and he had a broken toe nail.

He was wearing brown leather open-toed sandals without socks.

A spokesman for one of the organisers of his tour, Channel 0 publicity manager, Mr Ian Williams, said things were properly organised.

"There was enough security, but the kids came at us from both angles and they were pretty hard to stop," he said.

Cassidy was taken from the airport by a back route to avoid the fans.