

Cricket: 'Rude' Ryder out until 1.30am before one-dayer

5:00AM Tuesday February 26, 2008

By [Alanah May Eriksen](#)

Click on the View Photos link below the image to view a detailed graphic of Jesse Ryder's injured hand.

Jesse Ryder's problems worsened last night after it emerged he stayed out until 1.30am at a Christchurch bar before the final one-day international between New Zealand and England.

"I'm more than disappointed. I'm pretty annoyed, as I expect anyone else involved with the team would be. It's not something we would do before any match, not to mention one of this magnitude."

Mr Crocker said players should not need to be told not to drink before a game.

"You don't go out until 1.30am the night before a big match. There are no curfews because we haven't needed them."

A "programme of support", including extensive therapy from a psychologist, was being drawn up to help Ryder.

"He has let himself down very badly, and that's disappointing.

"But before that, for the previous four weeks when he experienced all the highs and lows of professional sport, to go through that range of emotions in the space of a month, he handled himself with remarkable aplomb. And we all told him that after the fifth game.

"He can be a successful player, and we're looking to support him any way we can.

"We're not discarding him and pushing him away. Quite the reverse," Mr Crocker said.

Despite the abuse, hospital staff were able to successfully complete the reconstructive hand surgery, meaning the burly opener could now be available for selection in the New Zealand one-day team to play in England in June.

Meanwhile, Ryder's international cricket career was saved by two millimetres of tendon, his surgeon has revealed.

Speaking to the *Herald* yesterday, Howard Klein of Christchurch said the 2mm of extensor tendon left unscathed on Ryder's injured left-hand index finger was "about the smallest" possible to allow a successful operation.



Jesse Ryder will be out of action for up to three months. Photo / Kenny Rodger

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Glass from the window Ryder's hand went through at a Christchurch bar early on Sunday morning had taken off a round piece of skin and tissue about 2.5cm wide on the second knuckle of the finger.

Beneath that, the extensor tendon was almost completely severed at a "critical location", with just the 2mm attachment remaining.

"We were able to fix that defect with some of the surrounding tissue, without taking a tendon from some place else," Mr Klein said.

The surgeon said he had seen similar injuries heal "perfectly" before, when the patient was young and dedicated enough to focus on rehabilitation.

Therapy on the hand was likely to begin tomorrow, Mr Klein said.

But it would be six weeks before Ryder could resume training.

A source within New Zealand Cricket confirmed Ryder was out drinking until the early hours of Saturday, the day before he seriously injured his hand trying to get through a toilet window at another bar.

The revelation comes after Ryder was forced to apologise to staff at Christchurch Hospital yesterday for abusing them as he was being treated in the emergency department.

Black Caps manager Lindsay Crocker told the Herald Ryder had been demanding, rude and verbally abusive to staff at the department on Sunday morning.

"I caught the tail end of it when I arrived [at the hospital]," Mr Crocker said.

"I explained to him everybody there was trying to help him. I told him to pull his head in. And he did. He agreed that it was inappropriate."

Ryder is to apologise to staff in the department and will carry out voluntary work for the Emergency Care Foundation.

Mr Crocker said he had discovered yesterday that Ryder had been drinking with friends at a bar within walking distance of the Black Caps' hotel for about three hours.

– ADDITIONAL REPORTING BY CRAIG BORLEY

This story was found at: http://www.nzherald.co.nz/section/4/story.cfm?c_id=4&objectid=10494566