

A TEARFUL Lady Diana clutches Prince Charles's hand for comfort as he tenderly ushers her to his car for a few moments alone.

Charles came to the rescue yesterday when a hectic week in the public eye suddenly seemed to become a bit too much for the 20-year-old Royal bride-to-be.

Lady Di's tears came as she was due to present the prizes at the Army polo grounds in Tidworth, Wiltshire.

Surrounded by a crush of photographers, film crews and spectators, she suddenly turned crimson, shook her head and rose from her place of honour in the grandstand.

Then she walked away with lowered head.

Cordon

The tears came as Lady Di's companion, Lady Romsey went to her and put her arm round her shoulder. And with Army police forming a cordon, the two walked to Charles's car.

Obviously sheeked, the Prince appeared to ask Lady Di what was wrong.

She took his arm, steadied herself against the car and spoke to him between sobs. He comforted her and helped her into the car, following her in and closing the door.

They talked for some minutes, then a detective drove Lady Diana and Lady Romsey away from the polo ground.

The prince was seen to

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complain to one of the tournament organisers. It was thought he was unhappy at the way the crowds were allowed to hem in Lady Di in the grandstand.

He then led his Navy team on to the field and scored the winning goal in a 4-3 victory.

Last night, a Buckingham Palace spokesman issued this statement: "Lady Diana had a strenuous morning at the engagement she attended with the Prince of Wales. She reacted temporarily

to stresses associated with the large number of photographers at the polo game.

"She decided she wanted to leave. She has now rested and is feeling much better.

"There will be only understanding for her reaction by everyone at the Palace."

Charles celebrated the win in the nearby officers' mess without Lady Diana, then left the tournament 90 minutes later.

He said of Lady Di:

"The occasion was just too much for her."