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Man Gets Prison For Driving Drunk, Crashing Into Jail

A Los Alamitos man was sentenced Friday to nine years in state prison for driving recklessly while under the influence of alcohol, crashing into an Irvine correctional facility and assaulting an officer, according to the Orange County district attorney's office.

The exploits of Matthew Van McDaniel, 25, caught the attention of newspapers and blogs after he crashed a Mercedes S550 through the gates of the James Musick Correctional Facility at 2 a.m. Jan. 10 while driving drunk. According to published reports, he got out of the car -- which was left in gear and later hit a tree. When an officer at the jail tried to restrain him, McDaniel punched him in the face.

McDaniel was arrested and found to have a blood alcohol level of 0.14%.

"It's the first time somebody tried to break into the jail," Orange County Sheriff's Department spokesman Jim Amormino was quoted as saying at the time.

McDaniel -- who was convicted in 2003 for assault with a deadly weapon, according to the district attorney's office -- pleaded guilty to one felony count of aggravated assault on an officer, one felony count of being an ex-convict entering the grounds of a correctional facility, one misdemeanor count of reckless driving, one misdemeanor count of driving under the influence of alcohol and one misdemeanor count of driving with a blood-alcohol level of 0.08% or more.