

Barons suffer 11-1 humiliation

PHILADELPHIA (UPI) — Bernie Parent may have missed a bonus for not getting an almost certain shutout, but Tom Bladon got his laurels for setting a record of eight points for a defenseman in one game, in the Philadelphia Flyers' 11-1 slaughter of the Cleveland Barons.

Bladon got four goals and four assists Sunday to surpass the previous NHL record of seven points in one game set by defensemen Bobby Orr while with the Boston Bruins. But Bladon took it all very modestly.

"I was very lucky," he said. "The first goal was the only legitimate one. When the other guys were getting in front of the goaltender and screening him, I made my shots."

Now, in his sixth season with the Flyers, Bladon, who it had be rumored might be traded, says he is more at ease. He feels his defensive play has improved and that he has cut down on mistakes.

"In the first couple of years I was worried about making mistakes," said Bladon. "I would pick up a paper the next day after a game and find the writers were reporting on my errors."

"SO I DECIDED not to worry any more and said to myself 'Who knows more about hockey me or the writers.'"

After Reggie Leach scored the first goal of the game at 10:45 of the opening period, the Flyers broke open the game with three goals scored in 44 seconds.

Bladon started the onslaught with a 35-footer down center at 17:54. He then

assisted on Don Saleski's 18th goal of the season and a goal by Mel Bridgman to make the score 4-0.

Goalie Bernie Parent (11-1-3) was denied a fourth shutout this season, when Dennis Maruk sent a 35-footer down center past him for the Cleveland's lone goal with 1:06 left in the game.

"That (the goal) hurt," Bernie said, adding flippantly, "I could have made more dollars tonight had it been a shutout." The Flyers give goalies bonuses for shutouts.

"Tonight everything we did was just right. Nothing could go wrong," said Parent in a big understatement.

Cleveland Coach Jack Evans had no statement to make.

"No comment," he said to questions, "What can you say about a game like this?"

He did say that Randy Holt re-injured his wrist which he cut in previous game during a fight. He sustained the new injury also in a fight. He swung a stick at stick at Bridgman, which he received a four-minute double minor and a five minute major penalty at 2:53 of the second period.

Bladon's four goals in one game ties a Flyers' team record.

At 13:47 of the third period, Bill Barber sent in the final Flyer's goal. Rick MacLeish also contributed two goals to the victory.

The Flyers are now leading the Montreal Canadiens by two points in first place of the Patrick Division.