

# Barons first to beat Czechs

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RICHFIELD — It is not worth two points, but it means a lot more.

The Cleveland Barons earned a huge amount of respect around the world as the Barons stunned the hockey world by upsetting the Kladno team of Czechoslovakia, 4-3, last night at the Coliseum becoming the only National Hockey League team to defeat the Czechoslovakians during their four game visit to North America.

It was a surprising climax to the four game "International Series." The Czech "Kladno" team had already beaten Toronto and Chicago while the New York Rangers had to score three times in the final period to earn a tie. All three have realistic chances of making the Stanley Cup Playoffs so the "Kladno" squad was not expecting much trouble from the Barons who have an up hill struggle to qualify for post season play.

"Kladno" coach Bohuslav Prosek echoed this thought through an interpreter.

"We were over-confident and that is what beat us. We were expecting an easy game after the Toronto game. We hadn't seen Cleveland play but we got a message that said they were not very good," Prosek said.

Prosek and his team had quite a few surprises last night. They would not have expected the Barons to lead 3-1 after two periods. Nor would they have thought Cleveland had enough guts to continue fighting after the game was tied midway through the final stanza. Lastly, no one would have expected a rookie to score the winning goal. But it all happened.

First-year right winger Kris Manery turned the trick just when it looked like Cleveland would have nothing to show for a good effort.

Manery took a pass from Dennis Maruk 10 feet in front of the goal and bounced the puck past goalie Milan Kolisek with 4:51 left in the game.

Although Cleveland's Jack Evans was the victorious coach, he was not overjoyed.

"We played well and it was a good experience for us," he said. "But I wish it would have been Buffalo instead so we could have gotten two points." The NHL game against Buffalo which was regularly scheduled for last night was postponed until next week so Cleveland could face the "Kladno" team.

"I was not looking forward to playing them tonight," Evans continued. "We have been playing almost every night. We had no time to practice or prepare."

Cleveland returns to NHL play on Friday night when the Vancouver Canucks visit the Coliseum. The Barons will be trying to snap its eight-game winless streak.

Isn't that what they all say? Czech "Kladno" coach Bohuslav Prosek described the Coliseum in this manner. "It is a beautiful rink but it is too far away from the city."

Even in defeat Prosek had praise for Cleveland's effort.

"They kept pressure on us the entire game. They were the only team we played that played to win for the entire game."

Lorain's George Maziarz is \$71 richer today. Maziarz won a penny for each person attending last night's game when he made a shot from center ice in the "Straight-Shooter Contest" sponsored by the Barons. There were 7,117 at last night's contest.

through the turnstiles will receive an official Barons' puck.

—Robin Innes

Kris Manery, who scored the winning goal last night, has been the Barons hottest scorer recently. Excluding last night's international goal, Manery has tallied 11 goals in his last 14 games. He had two during Tuesday night's loss to Philadelphia.

Friday night's home game against Vancouver is "Puck Night." The first 4,000 youngsters who come