

Victory Barons finally taste sweet smell of success

By SCOTT HAISLET
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RICHFIELD — Enough is enough. The Cleveland Barons failed to win in 15 outings and after the first 1:29 of Wednesday night's game with Minnesota it looked like it would be 16.

Glen Sharpley and Tim Younghans put the North Stars up, 2-0, with goals from in front of the net in that first minute and a half.

However, the Cleveland icers snapped out of their doldrums with six straight lamp lighters and defeated the visitors, 7-3, before 5,345 appreciative fans.

THE LAST WIN before Cleveland's club-record winless skein, which saw the Barons tie five and lose 10, was a 3-2 triumph over Vancouver on February 17, at the Coliseum.

Baron coach Jack Evans plans to savor the victory right up to game time tonight when his club meets the Sabres in Buffalo.

"I'm going to enjoy everything tonight (Wednesday)—my beer, my sleep, everything," he quipped.

"We had a horrendous start. We gave them too many scoring chances. They (Minnesota) play a wide open game. If you play wide open with them you could be in trouble." But, he added, "They're (Cleveland) not falling apart. They're trying to eliminate mistakes."

"We didn't expect them to start like that," said star-of-the-game Chuck Arnason, who got his 22nd and 23rd goals of



THE BUMP—The Barons' Greg Smith gives the hip to Minnesota left winger Per-Olov Brasar during last night's game at the Coliseum. The Barons were hip all night, breaking their winless streak with a 7-3 victory. (AP laserphoto)

Minnesota	2	0	1-3
Cleveland	4	1	5-2
First period—1, Minnesota, Sharpley 20 (Younghans, Habertis) 3:48, 2, Minnesota, Younghans 6 (Sharpley, Roberts), 1:29, 3, Cleveland, Potvin 3 (Manery, Fisher), 4:52, 4, Cleveland, McKechnie 16 (Arnason, Baber), 14:06, 5, Cleveland, Smith 5 (Maruk, Murdoch) 15:21, 6, Cleveland, Murdoch 15 (Smith, Potvin), 19:44			
Penalties—Meloche, Cle 0:48, Hall, Cle 2:25, Hall, Cle 5:51, Bonetti, Min 9:32, Smith, Cle double-minor, 11:18, Erikson, Min, 11:58, Brad Maxwell, Min, 18:49			
Second period—7, Cleveland, Maruk 31 (MacAdam, Manery) 17:40, Penalties—Young, Min, 1:17, Fisher, Cle, 11:33, Arnason, Min 19:52			
Third period—8, Cleveland, Arnason 22 (McKechnie) 2:11, 9, Minnesota, Younghans 7 (Sharpley), Seveling, 10:44, 10, Cleveland, Arnason 22 (McKechnie) 11:23, Penalties—Smith, Cle, 17:12, Hall, Cle 18:46			
Shots on goal—Minnesota 14-11-19 —25, Cleveland 12-12-8-22.			
Goals—Minnesota	Leperot		
Cleveland	Meloche	4	5,345

the season. "We got them (Minnesota's early goals) back and kept on rolling. This was our chance to win and we didn't want to let it slip by," he said.

THE BULK of the Baron comeback occurred in the opening frame as Cleveland had a 4-2 lead at the first break.

Baron Jean Potvin cruised in from the left point and calmly slammed home a Kris Manery pass at 4:52. Ten minutes later, Walt McKechnie knotted the game with a tip-in of Arnason's missed tip-in. Greg Smith and Bob Murdoch netted Cleveland's third and fourth goals, respectively, the latter a power play tally.

Minnesota's first goal, scored by

Sharpley, 48 seconds into the game, was one that Cleveland netminder Gilles Meloche thought shouldn't have counted.

"I turned around and I didn't see the puck go in," reported Meloche, adding, "it hit the bar. He (referee Alf LeJeune) didn't call it right away." For disputing the goal, LeJeune gave Meloche a two-minute unsportsmanlike conduct penalty, which aided the North Stars to their second goal.

Dennis Maruk of the Barons lit the lamp with a slot slap shot at the 17 minute mark of the middle period to put Cleveland up, 5-2. It was Maruk's 31st goal of the campaign, which is a personal high for the diminutive bearded centerman.

ARNASON SANDWICHED his goals around Younghans' second goal of the game to account for all of the third period scoring. McKechnie set up both Arnason goals by winning the faceoff in the Minnesota zone and drawing the puck to Arnason's stick.

"I've never seen a guy get a shot off as quick as that," complimented Evans in reference to Arnason.

According to Evans, the ice in the Coliseum was soft.

"Maybe we need bad ice all the time," he chuckled. "It saved us a couple of times when the puck slowed down in the puddles (of water on the ice)," he said.

With the win, the Barons swept the season series from Minnesota with three wins and a draw. It was Cleveland's 20th win against 43 setbacks and 12 ties.