

Did Barons make a 'Grand Finale'?

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RICHFIELD—The Grand Finale?

If it were, professional hockey bowed out in grand style in northern Ohio as the Cleveland Barons battled the highly-favored Philadelphia Flyers to a 3-3 tie last night.

Nobody knows if the financially-troubled Barons will survive the off-season and come back for another try next fall.

But, that uncertain future was temporarily forgotten last night as a crowd of 10,216 at the Coliseum thrilled to an exciting, well played Barons' final home game of this season.

From the very start the game was played with deep intensity by both clubs, almost as if the Stanley Cup depended on the outcome.

(Baron sidelights on E-2)

The checking was vicious and the action high-keyed for most of three periods that didn't have very many of the lulls common at times during normal hockey contests.

THERE WERE even several fights in the second period, and the crowd loved every minute of it.

The Barons had the incentive of wanting to end the home campaign on a high note, while the Flyers were going for a favorable spot in the upcoming playoffs.

With the tie, Philadelphia gained the needed point to clinch

first in the Patrick Division, giving it a first-round bye in the playoffs.

Although the Flyers outshot the Barons, 24-22, for much of the game the home team actually outplayed the rough and tumble favorites who extended their unbeaten string to six games.

Two of Philadelphia's goals came on long shots over 30 feet, which are semi-lucky for any team, while all three of the Barons' tallies were the result of great passing and teamwork.

An example was the tying goal with 11:57 left in the game.

Dennis Maruk was behind the net and sent a perfectly-aimed pass to Al MacAdam in front for the strike from five feet out.

MARUK DID the same thing on the Barons' second goal which came with 4:50 left in the opening period. He broke away and was ready to shoot himself when he suddenly ran into an alert defenseman on the side. Maruk then slapped the puck to his right to Bob Murdoch for a goal shot from 15 feet out on the right.

The play was picture perfect, and the crowd went wild.

That was the second goal for Murdoch, his first coming in the opening minutes of play on a pass from MacAdam.

Philadelphia tied it with 5:14 remaining in the opening period on a short shot in a crowd by Harvey Bennett.

Seconds later came Murdoch's second goal and the Barons led 2-1 going into the second.

Philadelphia tied it and then went ahead in the wild and

rugged second period as both teams displayed remarkable all-out hustle, resulting in sprawling players, penalties and tough checking.

Paul Holmgren tied it on a long shot from 40 feet out and then Bennett put the Flyers up with a 35-foot slap shot just seconds after the Barons had barely missed scoring themselves.

Maruk's two assists raised his season's point total to 75, tying the club record for a center set by Ted Hampson in 1968-69.

The Barons finished their home season with a 14-17-9 record and are now 24-41-13 overall with two games left. Philadelphia is now 47-16-15 overall.

Last night's crowd brought Cleveland's season total to 247,758, third highest in the 10-year history of the club which

was on the west coast until moving here this season. The Barons drew 64,009 their last six home games.

Summary

Philadelphia	1	2	0	3
Cleveland	2	0	1	3

First Period — 1, Cleveland, Murdoch (20) MacAdam, Neilson 5:56 2, Philadelphia, Bennett (15) Clarke, Holmgren 14:46 3, Cleveland, Murdoch (21) Maruk, Neilson 15:10. Penalties — Stewart Cle., :27; Holmgren, Phi 7:06; Maruk, Cle. 11:07, Dupont, Phi. 17:32

Second Period — 4, Philadelphia, Holmgren (12) Jim Watson Kindrachuk 14:15 5, Philadelphia, Bennett (14) Kelly, Clarke 17:38 Penalties — Kelly, Phi. 4:47; Dauley, Phi. 10:03, Murdoch, Cle. 11:06, Dornhoefer, Phi. misconduct. 12:51, Barber, Phi. major. 13:25, Christie Cle. major. 13:25.

Third Period — 6, Cleveland, MacAdam (22) Maruk, Murdoch 8:03 Penalty — Dauley, Phi. 3:24.

Shots on goal — Philadelphia 9-11-4-24 Cleveland 11-6-5-22.

Goals — Philadelphia, Parent, Cleveland, Meloche. A — 10,216