

# Barons 'new look' paying dividends

RICHFIELD, Ohio (AP) — The "new look" Cleveland Barons managed a feat Wednesday night they had not been able to accomplish since November of 1975 — beat the New York Islanders

With Dennis Maruk scoring the go-ahead goal while the Barons were a man short late in the second period, the Barons roared to a 5-3 victory over the Islanders.

Cleveland had lost seven and tied one with the Islanders since beating them just over two years ago.

MARUK'S 24TH goal and the 17th score of the season by rookie Kris Manery played key roles in the victory, but the steady play of newly acquired wingers J.P. Parise, Rick Jodzio and Chuck Arnason and defenseman Jean Potvin — all picked up in trades the past two days — drew praise from many of the Barons.

"We just did not have enough experience before," explained Cleveland defenseman Jim Neilson. "These guys help steady us down. Anytime you bring a guy with six or seven years experience who still has some legs left, he is going to help."

Cleveland Coach Jack Evans, whose team now has won two of its last three games, said, "Before the game, the new players were talkative and very informative. They gave us leadership. There was confidence in the conversations and I felt very good about it."

THE ISLANDERS led 1-0 after one period on the strength of Bryan Trotter's 29th goal, on a power play. How-

ever, Cleveland jumped into a 3-2 lead after two periods as Rick Shinske—with an unwitting assist from Islander defenseman Gerry Hart, who swept the puck into the net while trying to clear it, Walt McKechnie and Maruk scored for Cleveland around a New York goal by Mike Kaszcyki.

In the third period, Manery made it 4-2, but Islander rookie Mike Bossy's 27th goal cut the margin to 4-3 with less than two minutes remaining. Al MacAdam closed out the scoring for the Barons, hitting an empty New York net with four seconds left.

"WHEN YOU START to give up four goals a game, you're not going to win many," explained New York Coach Al Arbour. "It was very sloppy, there's no doubt they capitalized on our mistakes, and we made plenty of them."

"We did not capitalize on their mistakes," he added. "They simply gave it a better effort than us."

Neilson, a 15-year veteran of the NHL wars, agreed, noting, "We just played a sound hockey game. We play very patient. We contained them, waited for the breaks and took advantage of them."

"Right now," he continued, "we have a job to do, and that is to make the play-offs. We're seven points behind Pittsburgh right now, but we can do it if we all pull together."

The Barons play host to the Buffalo Sabres tonight in a game originally scheduled for Jan. 4. It was postponed so the Barons could play the touring Kladno of Czechoslovakia team.

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