

# Retribution

## Barons didn't wait long to even score with Maple Leafs

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### Barons box

Toronto 2 1 0-3  
Cleveland 2 2 1-3

First period — 1. Cleveland, Gardner 7 (Manery, Stewart) 1:25. 2. Toronto, Salming 6 (Ferguson, Carlyle) 10:40. 3. Toronto, Thompson 7 (Sittler, Carlyle) 13:07. 4. Cleveland, MacAdam 2 (Smith, Murdoch) 16:19. Penalties — Fidler, Cle. 7:33; Sittler, Tor. 10:25; Williams, Tor. (major-misconduct) 10:25; Maruk, Cle. 10:25; Holt, Cle. (major-misconduct) 10:25; Hampton, Cle. 12:30; Jones, Tor. 15:41; Smith, Cle. 18:34; Turnbull, Tor. 19:56.

Second period — 5. Toronto, Butler 2 (unassisted) 3:38. 6. Cleveland, Hampton 3 (Kuzyk) 7:56. 7. Cleveland, Fidler 8 (unassisted) 11:30. Penalties — McRae, Tor. (served by McDonald) 2:34; Murdoch, Cle. 10:24; Ferguson, Tor. 10:24.

Third period — 8. Cleveland, Gardner 8 (Neilson) 19:20. Penalties — McDonald, Tor. 7:52; Turnbull, Tor. (minor-major) 18:23; Smith, Cle. (minor-major) 18:23.

Shots on goal — Toronto 15-7-6-28, Cleveland 10-14-8-32.

Goalies — Toronto, McRae. Cleveland, Meloche. A — 3,930.

RICHFIELD — It was a two-goal win but it was a four-point victory for Cleveland as the Barons avenged Tuesday's 3-2 loss to Toronto by edging the Maple Leafs, 5-3, last night. A crowd of 3,930 at the Coliseum witnessed the feat.

Before last night's action, the Barons were in last place in the Adams Division 13 points behind Toronto. The Cleveland win trims the margin to 11 but had Toronto won the Maple Leafs would have been up by 15 points.

The game won't be described as the best brand of hockey played at the Coliseum, but it may be labeled as the strangest. Quirk plays contributed heavily to the game's plot.

**THE BARONS** who have been suffering from a shortage of goals jumped out to an early lead when Dave Gardner scored his first of two goals just 1:25 into the game. Midway through the period, Borje Salming's goal knotted the score.

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That goal came 21 seconds after Cleveland's Dennis Maruk and Randy Holt exchanged punches with Toronto's Darryl Sittler and Dave Williams. When Sittler returned to the ice, his power-play goal gave Toronto a 2-1 advantage.

Cleveland tied the count with 3:41 remaining in period one as Al MacAdam scored after missed shots by Greg Smith and Bob Murdoch.

**ALTHOUGH** Toronto would score another goal in the second period, it was not the fault of goalie Gilles Meloche. Meloche assessed his performance after the game.

"On Sittler's goal, I lost sight of the puck," he said. "Even if you only lose it for a fraction of a second, you are already behind the play."

"After the first period, things went better," Meloche continued. "The defense checked better and Toronto didn't come close to scoring."

Toronto's second period goal should be credited to Cleveland's Jim Neilson. When the Barons were bringing the puck up the ice, Toronto's Jerry Butler intercepted and fired from just inside the blue line. Meloche deflected the puck but when Neilson attempted to slap it to the ice, he hit it past Meloche and into the net.

**CLEVELAND** evened the score on Rick Hampton's tally and then moved ahead when Mike Fidler scored with 9:30 left in the second period. Fidler scored from a face-off in front of Toronto's goal. The puck was on its side and slowly ambled past Maple Leafs' goaltender Gord McRae.

The game's scoring was completed late in the final stanza as Gardner notched an empty-net goal with 40 seconds left in the contest.

"We were very deserving of the victory," Barons' coach Jack Evans said. "It was nice to get some goals after we had worked so hard and accomplished so little."

**EVANS PRAISED** the play of Fidler who has now scored eight goals in his last 14 games.

"Fidler has been playing incredible hockey. He is a tower of power out there. He just continues to go after the puck. Plus his checking has improved. He didn't know how to play defense when he started with us last year," Evans said.

Tomorrow night the Barons travel to Washington. Saturday night Jerry Cheevers and the Boston Bruins invade the Coliseum for an 8:05 face-off.