

# Barons humbled with worst loss, 13-3 to Buffalo

By BOB NOLD

Special Journal Staff Writer

RICHFIELD — If you enjoy suffering, you would have loved the Cleveland Barons' game here Saturday night.

If you're big on massacres, this was for you. Anyone who missed one didn't see all of the scoring.

The Buffalo Sabres absolutely shamed the Barons before their third biggest crowd of the season at the Coliseum, 18,324 who saw the Sabres score five times each in the second and third periods to pile up a devastating 13-3 triumph.

Whether it was Giles Meloche or Gary Edwards in goal made no difference. Both went home with black spots flashing in front of their eyes.

THE 13 goals were the most given up by the Barons this year, topping the Philadelphia Flyers' 11-1 rout Dec. 11 in Philadelphia.

Danny Gare produced the hat trick for Buffalo, getting his 32nd, 33rd and 34th goals of the season, with Andre Kovacs and Jerry Korah each scoring twice. The other goals were scored by Jim Lorentz, Bill Seering, Don Larr, Gary McAdam, Derek Smith and Fred Stanfield.

The Barons goals were scored by Rick Jodzio, Walt McKechnie and Al MacAdam.

THE FIRST PERIOD was played hard from the opening drop with the Barons furiously attacking and forechecking as vigorously as the Sabres.

The tone was set early when Al MacAdam and Buffalo's Gare, the respective captains, collided hard a couple of times and MacAdam put Gare down with a left which went undetected.

Blades were spilled all over the ice and there was considerable mashing along the boards. It also proved a high scoring period with the Sabres taking a 3-2 lead.

Lorentz put Buffalo ahead at 2:32 with his seventh goal, a petty blank shot in front of the left circle after Gil Perreault won a fumble for possession of the puck behind the net and skated clear.

The Barons came back, though, to take a 2-1 lead on Jodzio's second goal of the season at 5:27 and McKechnie's 10th at 11:13.

Dennis O'Brien won the fumble for the puck on Jodzio's goal, coming from behind the net and passing into the slot. Jodzio was then checked off it, but recovered and shot blindly on the net with his backhand as he spun around.

Kris Murray set up McKechnie's goal with a hard pass from along the left boards to high in the slot. McKechnie lifted it high into the net on the move.

Buffalo tied the game 2-2 at 15:36 as Gare took a pass from Craig Hartsay and slid the puck along the ice to the left of goalie Meloche for his 32nd goal.

Just when it looked like the first period might end in a tie, Seering rebounded Jim Schenkel's shot from the left side and scored his 13th goal in close at 19:35.

Both Meloche and Sabres goalie Bob Smeke made some nice saves or it could have been even more high scoring.

Buffalo opened its first two goal lead of the game at 5:08 of the second period after Meloche had made another superb save to his left on a shot from close in. The puck was hit again, squirted loose in the other corner of the net and Larr banged in his 23rd goal.

Only two minutes and 20 seconds later, Seward snapped in a shot from the right circle for his 14th goal and the lead went to 5-2.

Then Barons wing Mike Fidler and Sabres defenseman Lee Fogelin were sent to the penalty box for five minutes at 12:42 of the second period for fighting after they collided near the Buffalo net.

MacAdam added another Buffalo goal—his 10th—at 12:18, taking a drop pass from Seward and snapping a shot from the slot which rammed off Meloche's stick into the net.

The Sabres came right back at

14:37 for their fourth goal of the period—Gare's 33rd—on a shot from the left side which deflected off Meloche's glove and fell behind him.

The Sabres got their first power play opportunity at 18:01 when Bob Stewart was called for holding and 15 seconds later, Seward deflected a shot by Jocelyn Guayreman for his 13th goal to make it 8-2.

AS IF the five goals that period weren't enough, the Sabres got three more in the first 1:49 of the last period and then added two more near the end for their second five-goal period against Edwards who had replaced Meloche in goal.

Barons defenseman Jim Neilson suffered hyperextension of the right knee early in the game and avoided much of the ignominy that was to follow.