



P-Bruins falter down stretch

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Special to the Journal

BINGHAMTON, N.Y. -- After 46 minutes of misfiring, Binghamton's offense finally broke through.

With Providence ahead, 3-0, after a nifty 3-on-1 goal by Zdenek Blatny six minutes into the final period of last night's game, Binghamton's Gregg Johnson slipped a shot past goalie Tim Thomas.

Ordinarily, a two-goal advantage with fewer than 14 minutes to play would have been enough for the P-Bruins to hold on for a win and move their record above .500. But Johnson's goal, on the Senators' 34th shot of the night, sent them to a 4-3 defeat in front of 3,396 fans at the Broome County Veterans Memorial Arena.

Binghamton had plenty of chances to score in the first two periods, but Thomas stopped them all. Going back to Friday's win over Hartford, Thomas had stopped 70 of 72 shots before allowing Johnson's goal.

"I was saving tips cleanly and everything. I felt like through the first two periods, I probably had one of the best games in my life," said Thomas, who saw a three-game winning streak come to an end.

Thomas stopped 37 of 41 shots in the game. While disappointed with the loss, he was philosophical about Binghamton's turnaround in the final 15 minutes.

"I guess that's why people love sports, because things can turn on a dime, and they sure did," he said.

Grant Potulny scored the next two goals for Binghamton to even the score at 3-3 with 11 minutes left in the game.

His first goal came on Binghamton's 35th shot of the night. Tomas Malec took a wide shot from the point that deflected off the boards behind the net and back to Potulny.

The next goal came 38 seconds later on a play that began with the puck behind the P-Bruins' net. Jonathan Sigalet was fighting Binghamton's Danny Bois for possession, and the puck squirted free in front of Thomas and wound up in perfect position for Potulny to finish the play.

Providence coach Scott Gordon said those goals, especially the second Binghamton score of the night, turned the game around.

"It's tough break to have a shot miss the net and come back to somebody who's relatively covered," Gordon said. "It's a shot that isn't a quality chance and the guy ends up putting it into what's pretty much an empty net."

Danny Bois finished off the night's scoring when he finished a 2-on-1 by knocking home a pass from Johnson with 4:29 to play.

While the Senators were frustrated by their inefficiency earlier in the game, they didn't give up on their offense.

"We just kept saying, 'Keep shooting it and something's going to go in sooner or later,' " Johnson said.

Gordon pulled Thomas after a timeout with 1:17 to play, but Ben Guite, Sigalet, Eric Healey, Nathan Robinson, Blatny and Tyler Redenbach couldn't come up with a good shot in front of Binghamton goalie Billy Thompson.

Providence's other goals were scored by Blatny (first period) and Healey (second period.)

Healey wasn't able find anything positive in the losing effort, which dropped the P-Bruins to 11-12-1-1 for the season.

"The best thing to do with that game is just forget about it and move on," he said.

Providence 1 1 1 -- 3

Binghamton 0 0 4 -- 4

First period -- 1, Pro, Blatny 3 (Schutte), 13:23. Penalties -- Served by Gajic, Pro, 4:15; Pelletier, Pro, 8:10; Ward, Bng, 11:19; Clouthier, Bng, 13:24; Stroshein, Pro, 13:24; Pelletier, Pro, 15:56; Ward, Bng, 20:00.

Second period -- 2, Pro, Healey 12 (Dyment, Robinson), 10:44. Penalties -- Bois, Bng, 5:26; Reich, Pro, 5:26; MacDonald, Pro, 7:40; Malec, Bng, 11:53; Dyment, Pro, 14:38; Cullen, Bng, 17:54.

Third period -- 3, Pro, Blatny 4 (Healey), 5:53. 4, Bng, Johnson 5 (Potulny, Bois), 6:11; 5, Bng, Potulny 4 (Malec, Johnson), 8:22; 6, Bng, Potulny 5 (Bois, Johnson), 9:00; 7, Bng, Bois 3 (Johnson, Potulny), 15:31. Penalties -- Guite, Pro, 20:00; Hamel, Bng, 20:00; Potulny, Bng, 20:00.

Shots -- Pro, 4-12-17 -- 33; Bng, 16-15-10 -- 41. Power plays -- Pro 0 of 4; Bng 0 of 5. Goalies -- Pro, Tim Thomas 7-10 (41 shots-37 saves); Bng, Billy Thompson 2-8-1 (33-30). A -- 3,396.

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