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Navy sailing smoothly

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Back-to-back wins a sign of hope, says coach Sivalingam

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HAVING come back strongly after a disappointing start to the Malaysian Hockey League season, Dolphins are well prepared to build on their steady progress.

Despite losing their first game to Malacca City Council, the navy team now have two wins on the trot after successfully beating Bandar Penawar Sports School and Ipoh City Council in their last two league encounters.

The campaign may still be young but Dolphins are already hoping that their recent victories can steer them towards achieving their target — promotion to the Premier League.

Dolphins coach, M. Sivalingam knows all too well that his team cannot afford anymore slip-ups, if they were to make the grade to the A-list.

“I’d say that the season is going pretty well. I mean, other than the first game which we lost, we have been performing quite well. We just got a back-to-back win and the boys are in good mood.

“This league works in a very simple way to be honest. Generally, no team is better than another. All the teams are quite equally balanced in terms of strength and quality. It all boils down to the matches. The team that makes less mistakes will achieve positive results.

“So, basically if a team are error prone, they’ll have to pay the price for their folly. We learned that from our first game, now we are always on our toes. We need to continue focusing and keep our team tight. It doesn’t matter if it’s the sports schools, the army teams or the city council teams; everybody is going to have a fair share of fight. We have to make the most of what we get.”

Dolphins shouldn’t have a problem judging by their sound defence in the last two matches. Not only do they have several young players on their side, they have vast experience as well.

“We have been playing in the league since 2000. This is our 10th year. We shouldn’t really have a problem in our bid for promotion. We have a solid crop of experienced players in our squad. Some young players are registered with us this time too. It is good to see them playing well as a unit. I have a strong feeling that on the long run, all our effort on the pitch will pay dividends,” said Sivalingam.

Dolphins have a relatively easy match against UiTM at the National Hockey Stadium today. But their bigger test will be against Air Force on Sunday. If the navy team do make waves in that

match, then there's no doubt that they would at least be able to better their fourth place finish last year.

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