

UiTM top of the class

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UiTM defeated Gombak District 2-0 in a thrilling final recently to win the 4th K. Ramalingam Trophy for the first time.

The day-long 17-team hockey tournament saw many competitive and closely fought matches with high scores.

Organising chairman Santharan S. Arumugam said: “The format was tweaked with two points awarded for a scoring draw instead of a goalless draw.

“This encouraged teams to go on the attack instead of playing defensively.”

UiTM had their goalkeeper Saiful Amrie Basirun to thank for keeping them in the tournament after he single-handedly denied defending champions RAMD in the quarter-finals.

In the final, Saiful produced another stellar show against the Gombak District attack that was led by former national player Prabhakaran Periyathamby and Bhuvaneswara Prabhu.

Saiful’s counterpart in the final, Gombak District goalkeeper Muruges Kartigesu, was also up to the task.

As early as the second minute, the Gombak defence was tested when UiTM forward Mohd Hanif Ibrahim latched onto a pass from a teammate but only to find his reverse shot superbly saved by Muruges Karthigesu.

In the fourth minute UiTM’s Ikmal Abdul Jabar saw his attempt saved by Muruges.

Despite some desperate defending by the Gombak defence of Vijayan Maniam and Davindran Jai Kumar, a follow-up by Ikmal Abdul Jabar had keeper Muruges well beaten but the ball hit Gombak’s Davindran’s body and umpire Azhar Mohd awarded a penalty stroke.

UiTM Wan Mohammad Faizal Ismail coolly converted the shot to give UiTM the lead.

Gombak came charging back for the equaliser but could not penetrate the UiTM defence that was well marshalled by Wan Muhammad Faizal Ismail.

In the 11th minute, UiTM’s Ikmal Abdul Jabar had the crowd roaring when he sent a reverse stick rooftop shot that put the issue beyond doubt.

Ikmal was in disbelief himself with the goal as his teammates rushed in to celebrate with him.

Ikmal, who returned to the game after a four-year layoff, was deservedly named Man of the

Match.

In the third-fourth placing playoff, KDJLL edged Synergy Hockey Club 1-0 with KDJLL's Mohd Shafiq B Yaacob scoring in the third minute.

UiTM pocketed RM1,500 cash, Nestle hampers and Bata shoes while Gombak District walked away with RM1,000 and Nestle hampers.

KDJLL and Synergy Hockey Club won RM700 and RM400 respectively.

SHA president Datuk Salamon Selamat, in his speech, highlighted the importance of not only recognising officials who have contributed to the state, like the late K. Ramalingam, but also the affiliates.

He said "A lot of effort over the past year has been put up by the Competition Committee and it has been a successful tournament after tournament.

"The next competition will be the Selangor League which will provide a big challenge to the organising committee."

Salamon thanked Nestle, F&N, Coca-Cola, Bata, Muara Samudera and Pari Optical for their continued support to the Selangor Hockey Association.

The SHA, which will be organising the Selangor League after Hari Raya, is inviting teams and sponsors to join in.

For details, visit www.sha.com.my.