

TNB set early pace

2011/01/04

By Ajitpal Singh



Mohd Redza Maadun of YNS (right) tries to stop KLHC's Harvinder Singh in their match on Sunday. KLHC won 6-3. — Picture by Osman Adnan

WEEK two of the Malaysian Hockey League (MHL) turned out to be an exciting affair as there was nothing much to separate the favourites from the underdogs.

As expected, Tenaga Nasional (TNB) lead the Premier Division standings with seven points after three matches, a point ahead of defending champions Kuala Lumpur Hockey Club (KLHC) and Penang outfit Nur Insafi.

KLHC, defeated 2-0 in their opening match two weeks ago, recorded easy victories over Sapura (6-2) and Yayasan Negri Sembilan (6-3) last weekend.

Nur Insafi, marshalled by several foreign players and former international K. Keevan Raj, started their campaign only last weekend but immediately turned on the heat by notching wins over minnows ATM-Airod (3-1) and YNS (3-2).

Universiti Kuala Lumpur (UniKL)-TRC, who finished bottom of the table last season, have also been impressive with six points from two matches.

New Zealand-born penalty corner specialist Richard Patherick was UniKL's trump card in their victories over UiTM (3-2) and YNS (2-1). He scored all five goals for his club through penalty corners.

ATM-Airod, coached by K. Rajan, and UiTM are the bottom two teams without a point after three matches.

However, both teams have been making it difficult for their opponents with their hard running.

Maybank, coached by Wallace Tan, have also been consistent in week two by holding league leaders TNB to a 1-1 draw on Friday before edging UiTM 2-0 two days later.

The match between KLHC and YNS on Sunday turned out to be the match of the week. National player Razie Rahim scored a hat-trick to help KLHC win 6-3.

But the match was marred by a scuffle between players from both teams after the final whistle.

Those involved were KLHC's Nabil Fiqri Mohd Noor and Megat Azrafiq Megat Termizi and YNS' Vivek Gupta and Deepak Thakur.

The incident was reported by those concerned, including the umpires, to the tournament's technical committee.

The committee, headed by Hashim Yusoff, will deliberate on it before further action today.

The competition resumes on Friday in Ipoh.