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Champions Tenaga beat Sapura to maintain their lead

By AFTAR SINGH

KUALA LUMPUR: Defending overall champions Tenaga Nasional chalked up a hard fought 3-2 win over Sapura at the Tun Razak Stadium to maintain their lead of the Malaysia Hockey League (MHL) Premier Division yesterday.

Tenaga have 16 points from seven matches while Sapura are sixth with just two wins in six matches.

National forward Faizal Saari was the toast for Tenaga after scoring two penalty corner set-pieces in the 14th and 40th while

Mohd Amin Rahim added the other goal in the 46th minute.



Stopped: UniKL goalkeeper Stephen Michael Graham prevents KLHC forward Chua Boon Huat (left) from scoring as defender Robert Alcantara tries to clear the ball away. KLHC won 4-0. — SHAARI CHEMAT / The Star

Sapura goals were scored by Ahmad Kazamirul Nasruddin (31st) and Izwan Firdaus (48th).

Tenaga coach Nor Saiful Zaini praised his boys after winning the match which was played on the soggy pitch due to rain.

“I am happy that we make full use of the three penalty we earned in the match. However, Sapura gave us a tough fight as they earned three penalty corners in the second-half.

“But goalkeeper S. Kumar did well to make all the saves from the penalty corners,” said Nor Saiful.

Reigning league champions Kuala Lumpur Hockey Club (KLHC) scored a convincing 4-0 win over Universiti Kuala Lumpur (UniKL) to take over the second place in the standings.

KLHC powered by seven internationals have 15 points from six matches while for UniKL, who were second before the match, it was their first defeat in six matches.

Former international Chua Boon Huat was the hero for KLHC after scoring a brace in the 31st and 41st minutes. Boon Huat is currently the top scorer with nine goals from six matches.

Tengku Ahmad Taijuddin (32nd) and Azli Misron (67th) scored the other goals for KLHC.

KLHC coach K. Dharmaraj said that it was a good achievement for them as they beat UniKL who had been unbeaten in the last five matches.

“It is really nice to score four goals against UniKL who also had chances to score,” said Dharmaraj.

UniKL earned five penalty corners but their top scorer Richard Patherick, who has scored six goals, failed to get it right in the match against KLHC.

Dharmaraj added that they would go all out to beat UiTM on Tuesday to maintain top spot in the standings.

“To us the three points are more important than scoring a big win over winless UiTM,” said Dharmaraj.

UniKL coach Darren Smith was disappointed with his team’s performance yesterday.

“We not only wasted five penalty corners but also gave away soft goals. It has been the worst week for us as we also failed to score against Maybank which ended 0-0 on Friday,” said the New Zealand coach.

Yayasan Negeri Sembilan (YNS) powered by 11 foreign players turned on the heat in the second half to beat Nur Insafi 4-2 at the Tun Razak Stadium.

India’s Prabjoth Singh was the hero for YNS scoring all four goals in the 40th, 49th, 61st and 65th minutes.

Nur Insafi with seven foreigners replied with goals from Pakistan’s Kashif Ali in the 54th and 68th minutes.

ATM Airod register their first win by coming back from a goal down to edge UiTM 3-2.

Mohd Shafiq Yaacob scored a brace for ATM Airod in the 11th and 66th minutes. Mohd Firdous Ismail (50th) scored the other goal.

Faheed Saifullah (34th) and Mohd Izad Hakim Jamaluddin (37th) replied for UiTM.