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Pakistan star Rehan fails to make an impact for Sapura

KUALA LUMPUR: Pakistan's Rehan Butt is a world renowned player. But the forward has failed to make an impact for Sapura thus far in the Premier Division of the Malaysia Hockey League (MHL).

Rehan comes to Sapura with the distinction of being named in the 2010 World All-Stars team last month and he has 149 goals to his name in 357 international matches.

But the 29-year-old, who is featuring for the first time in the MHL, has only three goals to show for Sapura in six matches.

Former champions Sapura are going through their worst season in the league. They are in seventh spot with six points from two wins and four defeats.

Sapura got off to a promising start, trouncing ATM-Airod 7-2 in the first match. But in the second match, they suffered a 2-6 defeat by defending league champions Kuala Lumpur Hockey Club (KLHC). They also lost the matches against Nur Insafi (2-3), Universiti Kuala Lumpur (1-2), Tenaga Nasional (2-3). Their other victory was against Maybank (2-0).

Sapura coach I. Vickneswaran said that Rehan was a forward of vast experience but he was not playing to his true form in the MHL.

"He has not contributed enough to the team. The local players are playing much better than him," he said.

The other forwards in the team are Izwan Firdaus, Jiwa Mohan, Mohd Rodhanizam Mat Radzi, Faizal Daud, Mohd Faizal Kamaruddin and Craig Joseph Fernandez.

Vickneswaran added that Rehan would not be available for the two matches this weekend in Penang because he had to return home to feature in a domestic tournament.

Sapura will play against Yayasan Negri Sembilan (YNS) today and will take on UiTM the next day.