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FOOTBALL

Dollah humble despite favourites tag

By Vihay Vick

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PETALING JAYA — Police coach Dollah Salleh refused to buy into talk his side are sure-bets to earn promotion to the Super League.

The Premier League side top the standings, level on points with Penang, but have a game in hand against UiTM on Monday. Third-placed Felda United, who play Kedah on the same day, are seven points adrift.

Many have tipped Police and Penang to finish in the top two when the season ends in June.

Dollah challenged his players to double their efforts as they host SPA Putrajaya at PJ Stadium today while Penang have a tricky tie against Johor Darul Takzim II at City Stadium.

“We can’t say the Premier League is a foregone conclusion. Felda could spring a surprise as they have the capability to do so. Despite being seven points clear at the top, I feel the title race is wide open, and it’s not

just for Police and Penang.

“As for us, we have to be cautious. As I said before, every team give that something extra when they play against us. We have to double up our efforts and avoid complacency.

“Tomorrow (today) is just another game for us but I want my charges to remain disciplined. After bouncing back from two disappointing draws, we need to build on last week’s win over Kedah.”

Police were runaway leaders at the start of last month but draws against Felda and Negri Sembilan gave other Super League aspirants hope.

Dollah also praised Maldives international Ashfaq Ali. The 28-year-old forward is joint top scorer of the league with Edward Junior Wilson with 10 goals.

“He is giving his all. Honestly, I never expected him to make a big impact. His presence is a bonus for us,” Dollah said.

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Ashfaq (centre) has scored 10 goals for Police so far. — Picture by Razak Ghazali