

Headline	Cobra happy just to be there		
MediaTitle	New Straits Times		
Date	04 Apr 2014	Color	Black/white
Section	Sport	Circulation	95,860
Page No	39	Readership	236,000
Language	English	ArticleSize	111 cm <sup>2</sup>
Journalist	N/A	AdValue	RM 1,810
Frequency	Daily	PR Value	RM 5,430



# Cobra happy just to be there

**HAVING** flown under the radar for much of the season, traditional giants Cobra are more than happy to go into the knockout stages of the Super League in the unfamiliar position of darkhorses for the title.

Cobra vice president Tan Thiam Jin, whose young charges play JIJ Armed Forces for a spot in the semi-finals tomorrow, said he was happy that the squad are one match away from achieving their pre-season target of finishing in the top four but stressed he is hoping for more.

The Petaling Jaya-based club had unexpectedly crashed out of the tournament in the quarter-finals as two-time defending champions last year.

They opened their campaign this season with a disappointing 24-0 loss to defending champions Keris Conlay but bounced back to notch wins against Serdang Angels (15-3), SSTMI (22-20) and league debutants Mersing Eagles (22-8).

"I guess you could say we are un-

derdogs from here on. Half our squad are 18-year-old school-leavers (from Cobra Academy) who are just having their first taste of top-level rugby," said Thiam Jin.

"The seniors are there to guide them but in terms of experience, we are at a disadvantage compared to the other teams whose players have many seasons under their belt.

"Clubs like UiTM Lions, Serdang Angels, Conlay and Tunku Mahkota Ismail Sports School are all at about the same strength and each can win it.

"We made a lot of changes this year in terms of coaching as well and I believe the panel have done a great job to date.

"I'll be happy if we can achieve our target of reaching the semi-finals but of course I am hoping the boys can rise to the occasion and exceed expectations."

**Quarter-final draw:** UiTM Lions v Serdang Angels, SSTMI v Asas RFC, Cobra v JIJ Armed Forces, Keris Conlay v Negeri Sembilan Wanderers. **By Fadhli Ishak**