

Headline	SSTMI labour into semis		
MediaTitle	New Straits Times		
Date	07 Apr 2014	Color	Black/white
Section	Sport	Circulation	95,860
Page No	35	Readership	236,000
Language	English	ArticleSize	120 cm ²
Journalist	N/A	AdValue	RM 1,957
Frequency	Daily	PR Value	RM 5,871



SSTMI labour into semis

TUNKU Mahkota Ismail Sports School (SSTMI) inched closer towards realising their dream of lifting the Super League trophy for the first time after booking their spot in the last-four with a hard earned 29-22 win over dangerous floaters Asas RFC in the quarter-finals yesterday.

Though tested at times, SSTMI had the upper hand for most of the match and got on the scoresheet through a hat-trick of tries from Fijian Malakai Nalawa as well as one each from Nurazman Ramli and Mohd Ikhwan Ikmal Zulkipli while Mohd Fazrin Noor Zaid and Fijian duo Timoci Nacokula and Atunaisa Lacadamu (two) scored for Asas at the Universiti Putra Malaysia campus in Serdang.

SSTMI head coach Wan Ibrahim Wan Chik, whose charges finished third in the competition last year, said the match was exactly what he had expected coming into the knockout stages of the tournament.

They will now play Serdang Angels, who beat last year's finalist UiTM Lions 9-8 in their quarter-final encounter on Saturday.

"It was a good win for us. With a spot in the semis at stake, we ex-

pected a tough fight and that was exactly what Asas gave us today," said Wan Ibrahim, who is also the school's headmaster.

"The plan was to play at a fast tempo but the officials did not allow for a flowing game.

"This put us at a disadvantage and I believe we could have won a lot easier if they did not stop play as much.

"However, our team did show some improvement today. Our Fijians, who only recently joined us, looked a lot more settled.

"But I am a bit disappointed as our boys had lost focus towards the end of the match.

"Playing Angels will also be tough as most of their players are SSTMI old boys and we both know each other's game inside out."

Defending champions Keris Conlay also clinched a semi-final berth after downing Negri Sembilan Wanderers 29-25 in a match that was marred by a second-half brawl at UPM yesterday. Six players were yellow carded.

Conlay will play Cobra, who beat JLJ Armed Forces 43-27 on Saturday, in the semi-finals this weekend. **By Fadhli Ishak**