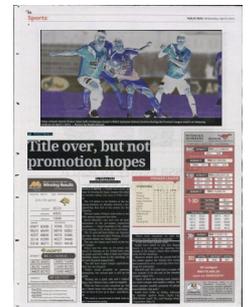


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FOOTBALL

Title over, but not promotion hopes

By Vijhay Vick

vijhayvick@mmail.com.my

KUALA LUMPUR — Kedah have given up hope of winning the Super League title after yet another defeat, this time to Felda United.

The 1-0 defeat to the Settlers at the Selayang Stadium on Monday marked a disappointing first half of the season for the Canaries.

Edward Junior Wilson's sole strike in the 64th minute separated the sides.

David Mitchell's side have lost all their encounters to the pre-season promotion candidates — Negri Sembilan (1-0), Sabah (3-2), Penang (1-0), Police (3-1) and Felda.

The 51-year-old feels Police are champions-elect, but second place Penang, though 10 points ahead, are within reach.

The top two teams earn berth in the Super League.

Police lead the table on 29 points, fol-

lowed by Penang on 26. Kedah have only 16 points and have Felda United and Negri Sembilan above them in the standings on 22 and 18 points respectively.

"We still have Super League aspirations. That has not changed.

"Police would probably be runaway champions, but second spot is still up for grabs.

"Penang are a good side and I respect them, but I believe they could be toppled.

"First we have to pick ourselves up. We are a better team than what the table tells, but we have to live up to that," said Mitchell

"We need to record back-to-back wins to get a momentum going.

"There were occasions we had the chances, but just could not capitalise.

"It was the same against Felda."

Kedah have failed to win two league match in a row since the opening two rounds of the league, where they momentarily led the standings.

However, Kedah start the second half of the season against the bottom four teams and consecutive wins could help them challenge for promotion.

Mitchell said: We could have a couple of new imports in by the end of the transfer window (April 19).

"Some of them are having trials. Ideally, we need a winger and maybe a striker. We need consider possible scenarios of player unavailability and such."

Kedah host UiTM on Friday, followed by matches against Perlis (April 14), DRB-Hicom (April 18), and Penang Water Corporation (May 9).

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Felda United's Mohd Shukor Adan (left) challenges Kedah's Mohd Syazwan Zainon (centre) during the Premier League match at Selayang Stadium on April 7, 2014. — Picture by Razak Ghazali