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Striker Rozaimi may play against Penang

By Lester J. Bingkasan

KOTA KINABALU: Star striker Rozaimi Abd Rahman could make a surprise return when Sabah tackle Penang at the Likas Stadium here tonight.

Rozaimi, who was only recently reported to be out for another two months, has shown positive sign of recovery from his ankle injury.

It is one of the encouraging developments within the state squad who could also unleash new foreign signing Jerome Doe for the clash.

On Rozaimi, team manager Rahman Zakaria said there was a big possibility that the national forward could be in Milomir Seslija's match day squad.

"He could be included but we will need to assess him on how he could fit in during training later and of course his fitness level.

"Rozaimi is getting better but there is no promise that he will definitely play.

"However, the possibility of him being included in the squad is very good," Rahman said here yesterday.

Regardless of Rozaimi playing or not, the news that he could return earlier than the two-month lay

off is already a huge boost to the Sabah Premier League squad.

And they could be more good news as Liberian striker Doe too is expected to make his debut after quietly signing for Sabah recently.

Sabah Football Association (Safa) Team Management Committee chairman Joehari Ayub refused to confirm but did drop a positive hint that the athletic forward could see action.

"What I can say now, is that we will do everything we could to make it happen," said Joehari, who is also vice president of Safa.

With Doe's arrival, Sabah have five foreign imports and the recent signing of Brazilian attacking midfielder Andre Esposito has threatened midfielder Mitrovic

Srecko's position.

The other two foreign imports are defender Pedrag Pocuca as well as fans favourite and current top scorer, Syrian striker Marwan Sayedeh.

Meanwhile, Milomir will welcome the news that both Rozaimi and Doe could be available as Sayedeh is suspended for the clash tonight.

In addition to that, the head

coach is missing several key players forcing him to call on the youngsters for reinforcement.

"We try to organise things without up to five players. The juniors are playing but this is not an excuse for not getting a positive result.

"We will try our best," said Milomir after training yesterday.

Sabah are trying to bounce back from the shock 1-0 defeat to bottom side PBAPP FC last week, which ended their eight-match unbeaten streak.

The state senior side is seventh in the 12-team standings on 16 points, 10 adrift of second-placed Penang.

Premier League Standings

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|--------------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| PDRM | 12 | 10 | 2 | 0 | 42 | 11 | 32 |
| Penang | 12 | 8 | 2 | 2 | 23 | 16 | 26 |
| Felda Utd | 12 | 7 | 4 | 1 | 31 | 16 | 25 |
| N. Sembilan | 12 | 6 | 3 | 3 | 13 | 11 | 21 |
| JDT II | 12 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 17 | 17 | 18 |
| Kedah | 12 | 5 | 2 | 5 | 19 | 14 | 17 |
| Sabah | 12 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| SPA FC | 12 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 6 | 21 | 12 |
| DRB-Hicom | 12 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 16 | 20 | 11 |
| UiTM FC | 12 | 2 | 2 | 8 | 9 | 18 | 8 |
| Perlis | 12 | 2 | 2 | 8 | 11 | 28 | 8 |
| PBAPP | 12 | 1 | 3 | 8 | 6 | 20 | 6 |



Rozaimi