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Fun-loving captain Rahull of Nurinsafi out to get serious in TNB Cup

By R. KIRUBASHINI

PETALING JAYA: Sharpshooter Nur Rahull Hrsikesa Thaitchana Muruthi (*pic*) has been scoring goals for fun for Nurinsafi in the Malaysian Hockey League (MHL) but he plans to get serious in the TNB Cup.

He has set his sights on leading his team for a win against UiTM in the quarter-finals first leg of the TNB Cup today. Captain Rahull finished top scorer for his team in the league with 17 goals and was the third highest scorer overall behind only Tenaga Nasional duo Azrai Aizad Abdul Kamal (23) and Jang Jong-hyun (20).

Rahull's goals helped Nurinsafi finish fourth in the league and is now hungry to continue his scoring streak as he bids to help his team reach the TNB Cup semi-finals.

"I finished top scorer and helped my team achieve our target of finishing fourth in the league. Now, we want to reach at least the semi-finals in the TNB Cup," said Rahull.

"We beat UiTM in the league but the quarter-finals are always a different ball game.

"Anything can happen and we need to be ready to face any scenario."

Nurinsafi had edged UiTM 5-4 in a thrilling match in the league earlier in

TNB CUP FIXTURES
QUARTER-FINALS, FIRST LEG TODAY
TENAGA NASIONAL vs KL CITY (6pm) <i>(National Hockey Stadium, Pitch 1)</i>
TERENGGANU vs LIAONING (6pm) <i>(National Hockey Stadium, Pitch 2)</i>
MAYBANK vs THUNDERBOLTS (8pm) <i>(National Hockey Stadium, Pitch 1)</i>
NURINSAFI vs UITM (8pm) <i>(Bertam, Penang)</i>

the month.

Despite banging in the goals, Rahull still believes he and his teammates have room for improvement.

"We need to convert more of our penalty corners and chances from open play, especially during the games against the big teams," said Rahull.

"We only get a few opportunities and if we don't take them, it will end up costing us the game.

"Our preparations have been going well so far. We had three training sessions to work on some of our mistakes from previous matches."

Meanwhile, in the other last eight matches, league champions Tenaga will play KL City, Terengganu will take on Liaoning while Maybank are set to face TNB Thunderbolts.