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Tenaga powered up to shed runnersup tag in TNB Cup

By T. AVINESHWARAN

PETALING JAYA: Enough of playing second fiddle!

Tenaga Nasional prolific strikers Azrai Aizad Abu Kamal and South Korean Jang Jong-hyun, who are currently vying for the top scorer award in the ongoing TNB Cup, are charged up to lift the trophy after finishing runners-up twice.

From the look of things, they may just lead their team to complete the treble this season.

They have ended their 21-year wait for a league title by winning their sixth in the Malaysian Hockey League (MHL) since competing in 2001. They have also won the Charity Shield by beating Terengganu 3-1 in a penalty shootout after holding each other out 2-2.

Now, it's time to end their losing streak in the TNB Cup.

"Our aim here is simple, we want to be champions of the TNB Cup. The last two years, we were runners-up and we want to end that," said Azrai.

Azrai is currently the top scorer with 25 goals, while veteran centreback Jong-hyun, has scored 21 goals.

In the TNB Cup, they showed their prowess by thrashing Chinese club Liaoning 7-0 in the quarter-final first-leg at the National Hockey Stadium on Friday. Azrai scored two in the game, while Jong-hyun scored one.

Both teams will face off again in the second-leg today.

With a comfortable cushion, Tenaga are almost virtually through to the semi-finals but Azrai urges his charges to be humble.

"Let's not be overconfident. In hockey, anything can happen if you are not focused.

"Take me for example, In some games, my finishing is sharp, but in some, they are not. That is something I need to focus on, especially in Cup competitions.

"It would be nice to retain the top scorer award I won last year but it would be even better to win the TNB Cup."

Last year, Azrai won the award by scoring 40 goals.