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Date	03 Mar 2024	Language	English
Circulation	38,902	Readership	116,706
Section	Sport	Page No	46,48
ArticleSize	486 cm ²	Journalist	AFTAR SINGH
PR Value	RM 50,067		



Thunderbolts pull a fast one on officials?

MATCH officials are left embarrassed after failing to notice that TNB Thunderbolts played with 12 men for about two minutes against Maybank in the TNB Cup.

» AFTAR SINGH REPORTS ON PAGE 46

Maybank's Muhajir Abdu Rauf (right) in action against TNB Thunderbolts in Friday's TNB Cup quarter-final, first-leg match at National Hockey Stadium in Bukit Jalil. PIC FROM MHC

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MATCH OFFICIALS SLEEPING ON THE JOB?

Thunderbolts had 12 men on the field against Maybank

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WERE the technical officials aware of what was happening during the match between TNB Thunderbolts and Maybank in the TNB Cup quarter-final first leg at the National Hockey Stadium in Bukit Jalil on Friday?

There were 12 Thunderbolts players on the field against Maybank in the third quarter.

It is the job of the technical officials in charge of the match to make sure both teams have only 11 players on the field.

When the officials realised there was an extra man on the field, a yellow card was issued to Thunderbolts captain Shazril Irwan Nazli by umpire Mohd Azry in the 41st minute for his team having 12 players.

Maybank, despite playing with a man less for about two minutes, still had enough firepower to hammer Thunderbolts 7-1.

Meanwhile Universiti Teknologi Mara

(UiTM), who finished fifth in the 11-team Malaysia Hockey League, came from a goal down to edge Nurinsafi Sporting 2-1 in the TNB Cup quarter-final first leg at the Bertam Hockey Stadium.

However, UiTM coach Nor Aqmal Abdul Gaffar said the one-goal cushion against Nurinsafi, who are powered by five players from India, is not good enough for the return leg.

"Nurinsafi defeated us 5-4 in a league match. We will have to play a tight marking game and cannot allow them to create chances as they have good forwards.

"We also need to improve on our penalty corner set-pieces as we got three PCs against them on Friday but failed to convert.

"Our main drag flicker is T. Perabu and for his age (21), he has done well to convert five penalty corners in the league. I'm banking on Perabu to deliver in the return leg.

"I'm confident that my players will put up another good performance to secure a place in the last four," said Nor Aqmal,

who guided UiTM to fourth in the TNB Cup last year.

Meanwhile defending champions Terengganu look set to make the semi-finals after defeating Liaoning 5-2 in the quarter-final first leg.



A Maybank player (in yellow) in action against TNB Thunderbolts in the TNB Cup quarter-final first leg at the National Hockey Stadium on Friday.