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Faizal nets a double to attract attention for call-up

KUALA LUMPUR: Striker Faizal Saari is ready to serve the nation if his services are required.

Faizal is out to catch the eye of new national team head coach Sarjit Singh.

The 33-year-old boosted his chances of earning a national call-up after scoring two goals to help Terengganu down Liaoning 4-0 and book a spot in the TNB Cup semi-finals.

Faizal netted in the eighth (penalty corner) and 18th minutes (field goal) at the National Hockey Stadium in Bukit Jalil yesterday to set his team on the way to victory.

Terengganu were already in a comfortable position after winning the first leg 5-2 and showed off their strength further in the second leg through field goals from Ismail Abu in the 13th minute and Mohd Abdul Sufian Mat Ruslee in the 28th minute.

It was the team's top marksman Faizal though who shone brightest as he scored his 19th and 20th goals in the overall season.

"I'm happy with my performance so

far this season," said Faizal.

"I believe I'm doing everything to earn a call-up to the national team.

"Sarjit has been appointed as the new coach and I will keep doing my part to catch his eye. The rest is up to him.

"I might be 33 but I can still score goals and contribute to the nation."

Faizal's immediate focus is to help Terengganu defend the TNB Cup.

"We missed out on the Charity Cup and league title, so we want to go all out to win the TNB Cup," said Faizal.

"League champions Tenaga will be our main challengers. They are a solid side but we will give everything to try to deny them."

Terengganu will most likely face Maybank in the semi-finals after the latter beat TNB Thunderbolts 7-1 in the first leg.

Meanwhile, Tenaga flexed their muscles by thumping KL City 17-1 for an overall aggregate score of 24-1. The league champions will meet either Uitm or Nurinsafi in the semi-final.



In top form: Terengganu's Faizal Saari (right) scored his 19th and 20th goals in the overall season against Liaoning yesterday. — IZZRAFIQ ALIAS/The Star