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Four players called up for national duty

By T. AVINESHWARAN

PETALING JAYA: The national hockey team will see four new faces in the squad.

Akhimullah Anuar Esook, Arif Syafie Ishak, Noor Firdaus Rosdi and Azral Aizad Abu Kamal were called up for a special training camp to prepare for the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup in Ipoh and FIH Men's Final Series in Kuala Lumpur.

Both tournaments will be held from March 23-30 and April 26-May 4 respectively.

National head coach Roelant Oltmans, who was seen scouting during the Malaysian Hockey League (MHL), has identified 28 players for the camp, which will be held in Kuantan from March 10-16.

THE TRAINEE SQUAD

Goalkeepers: S. Kumar, Hairi Abd Rahman, Hafizuddin Othaman.
Defenders: Zaimi Mat Deris, Sukri Abdul Mutalib, Razie Abd Rahim, Syed Mohamad Syafiq Syed Cholan, Faiz Helmi Jali, Luqman Nul Hakim Ahmad Shukran, Najmi Farizal Jazlan, Muhammad Najib Abu Hassan, Amrirol Ajeed Mohd Anshad.
Midfielders: Arif Syafie Ishak, Marhan Mohd Jalil, Fitri Saari, Meor

Muhamad Azuan Hassani, Mohamad Ashran Hamsani, Joel Samuel Van Huizen, Azral Aizad Abu Kamal, Haziq Samsul.
Forwards: Tengku Ahmad Tajuddin Tengku Abdul Jalil, Firhan Ashari, Faizal Saari, Nik Muhammad Aliman Nik Rozemi, Norsyafiq Sumantri, Shahril Saabah, Akhimullah Anuar Esook, Noor Firdaus Rosdi.

Najmi Farizal Jazlan also makes a return to the national team set-up. The training camp is a platform for the new players to build their combination and relationship with the regular players.

The target for the national team is to reach the final of the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup, and in their bid to achieve the goal, renowned penalty corner specialist Taeke Taekema and goalkeeper Martin

Drijver have been brought in to improve the team.

This year's Sultan Azlan Shah Cup will see Malaysia playing teams like South Africa, India, Canada, Japan and South Korea.

In last year's edition of the tournament, Malaysia finished fourth after they were beaten by Argentina 3-1 in the third-fourth placing match. Australia were the champions last year.