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PETALING JAYA: The opportunity to repeat their treble win last season may have slipped away for Tenaga Nasional, but it has in no way made the team lose their spark.

The Malaysian Hockey League (MHL) defending champions fell 1-2 to Terengganu in the Charity Shield on Saturday, but head coach Nor Saiful Zaini said his players were not sulking.

"These players are professionals with some of them even playing in the national team," said Saiful.

"Of course, the players feel bad, but a loss like this just means we have to come back better."

Winning the TNB Cup, League, and Charity Shield last year has put a target on Tenaga's back, and Saiful said it was going to be the same way as the league progresses.

"Having the title of treble winners in 2024 means all the other teams in the league want to stop us," said Saiful.

"They know that they can't afford to give us the chance to dominate the game.

Despite the loss, Saiful praised his team, adding that external factors could have contributed to his players' lack of sharpness on the pitch.

"It's not that the team played badly, but they were struggling to get the timing of their shots right.

"The opportunities did present themselves during the match, but some of the players were not sharp with their attempts.

"We had about five penalty corner attempts, but none were converted.

"It could be because some players joined the national team's training sessions, and their fitness could have been impacted. That could have been partly the reason," he said.

Tenaga will take on junior side TNB-Thunderbolts in their next MHL fixture, and Saiful wants his team to avoid making the same mistakes during the Charity Shield match.

"Our target is always to win regardless of the team. Every team is strong and we need to avoid mistakes while playing to our strengths," he added.