

Headline	Terengganu won't rest easy on three-goal cushion over Maybank		
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Terengganu won't rest easy on three-goal cushion over Maybank

By K.M. BOOPATHY

PETALING JAYA: Complacency is the last thing on Terengganu's mind in the return leg of the TNB Cup semi-final against rivals Maybank today despite a well-earned 3-0 victory on Tuesday.

Knowing well that the TNB Cup is their last chance saloon in the Malaysian Hockey League (MHL) this season after surrendering the Charity Shield and the league title to Tenaga Nasional, the East Coast giants cannot take their feet off the gas against the bankers at the National Hockey Stadium in Bukit Jalil.

Terengganu skipper Fitri Saari

said his side's efforts in keeping Maybank at bay during penalty corners have been the turning point in the first leg.

Maybank, who rely heavily on veteran Razie Rahim and their captain Najmi Farizal Jazlan for goals, seem to have struggled as the Terengganu defence led by Firdaus Omar were solid in nullifying the penalty corner attempts.

"We have not made many changes in our game but our defence during penalty corners stood out. We didn't concede any goals during the penalty corners and this gave us the edge against Maybank," said Fitri.

"At the same time, we also took

our chances and turned them into goals and we have some advantage going into the second leg.

"However, lack of focus can turn things around and we don't want to make things difficult for us.

"We just have to keep pressing and focus on winning the match to secure our place in the final."

Fitri had led from the front in the first leg by converting a penalty stroke in the 19th minute while field goals from Firdaus Rosdi (47th) and Akhimullah Anuar Esook (48th) had given Terengganu a three-goal cushion.

Another inspiring performance from Fitri should seal Terengganu

a place in the final today.

Meanwhile, Tenaga seem to be taking it easy with a 3-1 win over UiTM in the first leg and an upset looks highly unlikely in the second leg.

Tenaga, bent on securing a treble for the first time, are likely to rely on penalty corner specialist Jang Jong-hyun of South Korea and national striker Azrai Aizad Abu Kamal to book their berth in the TNB Cup final on Saturday.

Azrai, who scored two goals in the win against UiTM but was hit by a stray hockey ball on his left ankle during an interview session after the semi-final match, is hoping to play today.

TNB CUP

SEMI-FINAL FIRST LEG RESULTS

TERENGGANU	3	MAYBANK	0
TENAGA	3	UITM	1

TODAY'S FIXTURES

SEMI-FINAL, SECOND LEG

MAYBANK vs TERENGGANU
(6pm) (National Hockey Stadium, pitch 1)

UITM vs TENAGA NASIONAL
(8pm) (National Hockey Stadium, pitch 1)

"It hurt a lot but it's not that serious. I don't see any problem playing in the second-leg semi-final as a day's break and treatment should help," said Azrai.