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Defending champs Warrior look to repeat as TNB hockey league semis starts

Marshall Tiong

KUCHING: The HAS' TNB Sarawak Hockey League enters its final weekend with defending champions OneXOX Warrior looking to repeat again.

The semi-final is set for today with champs Warrior taking on Kuching Hockey Association.

The other semis will see 2018 losing finalists 11 RAMD meeting Borneo Young Blood.

Both Warrior and RAMD won their respective groups with unblemished records and in impressive fashion.

Warrior coach Rudi Naziri expressed confidence heading into the crucial match.



M. Izzat Afifi

"We played well in the first round. Our offence was good, so was the midfield but our goaltending was really good," he said.

"KHA has some good players but we can win this. I really want us to retain the title," added Rudi.

For KHA coach Julian Ong, it will be a tall order for his side to advance.

He will be fielding several

juniors in addition to a crop of experienced senior players.

"It is part of our development plan," he said.

He noted that they are up against a very good opponents.

"Warrior is a very good team, no doubt about that. We have to find ways to shut them down," he said.

If they are to win, they will have to stop forwards like M. Izzat Afifi, the Sukma captain who has been on fire lately.

RAMD should have little trouble against BYB as the soldiers are probably the fittest and most well organised team in the league.

The final is set for Sunday at the Sarawak Hockey Stadium.