

Headline	Lucky Maybank through		
MediaTitle	New Sunday Times		
Date	08 Jan 2017	Language	English
Circulation	74,711	Readership	240,000
Section	Sport	Page No	59
ArticleSize	125 cm ²	Journalist	N/A
PR Value	RM 6,783		



HOCKEY

Lucky Maybank through

MAYBANK coach Saiful Azli was frank when he said they did not deserve to win against Universiti Kuala Lumpur (UniKL) in the Malaysia Hockey League (MHL) Alagenda Cup quarter-finals yesterday.

The Tigers came from behind to beat UniKL 2-1, and will play Petaling Jaya City Council (PJCC) in the semi-finals tomorrow.

A draw was made after the quarter-finals and the other last-four encounter will be between Terengganu Hockey Team (THT) and Kuala Lumpur Hockey Club.

THT hammered Politeknik 7-1, while Petaling Jaya City Council beat Bukit Jalil Sports School 2-1 and Kuala Lumpur Hockey Club beat SSTMI 7-0.

For the record, Maybank and UniKL were also paired in the Alagenda Cup quarter-finals last season and the Tigers lost 1-0.

Yesterday, failure to convert their chances cost UniKL a place in the semis as they not only squandered an early lead, but also fumbled seven penalty corners.

Marhan Jalil opened scoring for UniKL in the 32nd minute but Maybank hit back with goals from Iderus Ali (44th) and Hafifi Hafiz (51st).

"We did not deserve to win but luck favoured us. We did not play that well as two matches within 24 hours affected the team," said Saiful.

"Converting penalty corners (they missed six) is one aspect we need to work on but making the semis is a feel good factor that will boost the confidence of the players."

UniKL coach Arul Selvaraj readily admitted that much had to be done before the MHL Premier Division gets underway on Jan 13.

"We should have killed off the game after scoring the first goal," said Arul.

"We are poor within the six metre area as the players are devoid of ideas when in possession. That's what we need to work on — and fast."

RESULTS — Quarter-finals: Petaling Jaya City Council 2 Bukit Jalil Sports School 1, Politeknik 1 Terengganu Hockey Team 7, UniKL 1 Maybank 2, Kuala Lumpur Hockey Club 7 SSTMI 0.

TOMORROW — Semi-finals: Petaling Jaya City Council v Maybank+ (6pm), Kuala Lumpur Hockey Club v Terengganu Hockey Team (8pm). All matches at the Tun Razak Stadium.
Jugjet Singh