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## Terengganu hopeful after draw with star-studded Tenaga

**PETALING JAYA:** Despite having a star-studded line-up, Tenaga Nasional have shown that they are beatable with two more silverware remaining in the Malaysian Hockey League (MHL).

In the Charity Shield match on Wednesday against Terengganu, the match ended 2-2 in regulation time but the east coast side fell 1-3 in the penalty shootout.

Terengganu had no firepower after their penalty corner specialist Jang Jong-hyun, internationals Marhan Jalil and Shello Silverius joined Tenaga this season but Fitri refused to throw in the towel.

Fitri, captaining his side again this season, only had his brother Faizal and several former internationals and six players from the Malaysia Hockey5s squad who finished runners-up in the Oman last month to rely on.

Fitri was the only Terengganu player to score in the shootout but the solitary point they earned for the draw, where the full-time result is counted for the league, was as good as gold.



**Still good:** Terengganu's Fitri Saari (left) outruns Tenaga's Shello Silverius in the Charity Shield match on Wednesday. — MHC

"We only had two days of training with the entire team after the return of the Hockey5s players and we were up against a team that are almost as good as the national squad. The draw is a big result for us," said Fitri.

"The players gave it their all despite being

short on preparation and the performance has given us the belief that the chance for the league title is still open.

"The players know that they can challenge the big teams but this is our first game and we have a long way to go.

"The one point we earned was very valuable and we have to keep progressing and fight all the way.

"We never had the chance to practise shootouts and despite not being able to defend the Charity Shield, we gave our everything.

"Our veterans Sukri (Mutalib), Nabil (Fikri Noor) and Ismail (Abu) provided the stability due to their experience and they will surely play key roles in our campaign despite their age."

Former internationals Sukri (38), Nabil (37) and Ismail (40) have their ways and their presence with the Saari brothers is likely to boost Terengganu's hopes of winning at least a title this season despite the looming danger from the power-packed Tenaga and the other strong contenders Maybank.