



10 JAN, 2025

Back in scoring rhythm

The Star, Malaysia



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Striker Azrai shows he has rediscovered his finishing touch by helping Tenaga win big

By T. AVINESHWARAN

PETALING JAYA: Hockey ace Azrai Aizad Abu Kamal stayed in the hunt for his third Golden Boot award in a row by scoring big for Tenaga Nasional.

The 25-year-old Perakian was truly sensational in his team's 7-3 hammering of home side TNB Thunderbolts in the Malaysian Hockey League (MHL) at the National Hockey Stadium in Bukit Jalil yesterday.

Azrai, who is the key striker for the national team, scored four goals in the 12th, 57th, 58th and 59th minutes, to top the scorer's standings and also help his side get their first win of the season.

The other goals were scored by Amirul Hamizan Azhar (eighth), Nursyahmi Zulkifli (53rd) and Jang Jong-hyun (23rd).

For the home side, the goals were scored by Fahmi Khalid (first minute), Nabil Irfan Yusoff (21st) and Atif Aqil Zubir (52nd).

Tenaga coach Nor Saiful Zaini was happy for Azrai but did say his side were not as sharp as last year.

"After the league last year, when Boy (Azrai) joined the

MALAYSIA HOCKEY LEAGUE RESULT			
TNB-T'BOLTS	3	TENAGA	7
TODAY'S FIXTURES			
TERENGGANU vs UITM (Batu Burok Hockey Stadium, 4pm)			
A. FORCES vs NUR INSAFI (Kuala Lumpur Hockey Stadium, 6pm)			
MAYBANK vs LIAONING (National Hockey Stadium, 6pm)			

national team, he lost his scoring touch a little, so now that he is back in the league, it is time to sharpen it," he said.

"It is nice to see him getting on the scoresheet again and scoring that many goals, but we hope it will go on for the rest of the league campaign.

"Yes, we won 7-3, but from the first to the third quarter, we were bad and only widened the gap in the fourth. We are not there yet in terms of sharpness.

"Last year, we were better during the beginning stages. But the win is a motivation for us. We have a tough game coming up."

Tenaga's next match is against



Star of the show: Tenaga Nasional's Azrai Aizad Abu Kamal played a crucial role in their victory over TNB-Thunderbolts.

Chinese club Liaoning at the National Hockey Stadium on Jan 12, while Thunderbolts will face Terengganu at the Batu Burok Stadium on the same date.

Saiful said he has watched Liaoning play some friendlies and has urged his charges not to underestimate them.

"They are better than last year. We will continue assessing them,

but like I said, we have to be on point.

"To get that edge, the players need to work on it. It is a tight schedule, so before any game, they have to stretch well, sleep well and go for sports massages.

"Not forgetting nutrition and hydration. These are the homework all my boys need to do before any game."