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**HOCKEY**

# UniKL hero an Olympian 'head Turner'

IN only his first season in his first season of the MHL, Glenn Turner turned hero for University Kuala Lumpur (UniKL) in their TNB Cup victory over Kuala Lumpur Hockey Club (KLHC) on Saturday.

The Aussie scored their only goal in regulation time for a 1-1 deadlock, then scored twice for a 4-3 win in the sudden death penalty shootout to give UniKL their first trophy since 2011 at the National hockey Stadium.

Turner's goal in the final was a classic showcase of composure. He controlled a high ball just past the 23 metre line and as he moved into the circle, Turner deftly controlled the ball and drew KLHC goalkeeper Roslan Jamaluddin out before he rifled the ball at an acute angle into goal, showing why he is one of the deadliest forwards out there.

Turner, 33, is a dual Olympian so why is he here? Apparently, Australia's loss is UniKL's gain. Turner has not got a national call-up since the Rio Olympics, in an international career gone cold. But the Canberra native is leaving the door open with a playing role in the hockey scene.

With back-to-back World Cups (2010, 2014), the 2010 Commonwealth Games gold medallist for Australia has scored 96 goals for Kookaburras from 136 appearances, despite a late debut at age 25.

He talks to *Mailsport's* R. LOHESWAR.

**MM: What's in store for you now?**

**GT:** I'm finished with Australia unfortunately but I had many good years. I own a gym in Canberra called "Evolve" and I got to work now. I'm doing a lot of coaching but if offers to play abroad keep popping up. I'm grabbing it with both hands.

**MM: What do you think of the Australian team?**

**GT:** Everyone in hockey is in a transition phase. Look at Belgium. They are good but haven't won yet. They are close to breaking those shackles. Australians know how to win, except the Olympics, and you know they will always be in the reckoning.

**MM: Your thoughts on the season?**

**GT:** When you throw a team together it's always like a puzzle. Some teams work out instantly. Others take time. This



UniKL's star striker Turner is shadowed by (right) KLHC's Jang Jong-hyun during the TNB Cup final. Turner, scoring three goals, was man of the match for UniKL in Saturday's victory over KLHC. — Instagram@glenn\_turner4

team definitely took a while but having experienced players prevented us from snowballing. You start bad and it can finish bad. But the leaders in the team stepped up. We kept positive and kept it going. We always said the big competition was at the end and at season's end, we finally figured out how to use each other well.

(He flew back to Canberra last night)

**MM: What's on your mind when you go back?**

**GT:** Heaps. I've got a new Instagram page that started while I was here called @hockeysee. "See It, Learn It, Do It". We do tips and videos with an emphasis on teaching people the basics. Everyone (now) slaps the ball. It's because they're taught

the wrong way. If you look at the really good players they can slap, jab, hit and do overheads. As they master the basics. Once you get that right, the other stuff follows suit and that's what it's about.

**MM: What do you make of the local hockey scene?**

**GT:** With next year's Pro League, it's going to hurt, getting some top internationals. But there are many other good players out there. They play in different leagues around the world and can come here. You look at this season. We have Dutch, Australian, Argentinian and Spanish players. It raises the competition, builds up and then Malaysian hockey starts going back up top again.