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Jang aims to end with a bang

S. Korean hopes to help Tenaga before next year's retirement plans

By K.M. BOOPATHY

PETALING JAYA: South Korean hockey player Jang Jong-hyun wants to go out with a bang.

The world-class penalty corner flicker, who is plying his trade in the Malaysian Hockey League for the seventh season, will go all out to help Tenaga Nasional before ending his Malaysian stint next year.

Having played for five seasons for Terengganu and for Kuala Lumpur Hockey Club (KLHC) once in 2018, Jong-hyun has joined Tenaga this season and the team have already won the Charity Shield on Feb 7.

Jong-hyun scored against Terengganu in the Charity Shield where were tied 2-2 in regulation time before Tenaga won 3-1 in the shootout.

"It was sad to see my former team lose but now I am with Tenaga and must help them to win titles this season. It was a very tough game but I was enjoying the Charity Shield and managed to win the first title with my new team.

"I am looking forward to try and help Tenaga to go for more titles this season and also enjoy playing in the league here."

Tenaga will be hoping for Jong-hyun to continue his prolific scoring this season and the Korean star has already slammed seven from three matches so far.

This takes his overall scoring record in his seventh season in MHL to 151 goals but Jong-hyun need to continue his spree

MALAYSIA HOCKEY LEAGUE

RESULTS

TERENGGANU	2	THUNDERBOLTS	1
Y. ELEPHANTS	4	ARMED FORCES	1
UITM	3	JM ANTBEES	1

if Tenaga wish to secure the remaining league and TNB Cup titles.

Besides Tenaga, Jong-hyun also plays for Seongnam in the Korean League.

"I have only played for Seongnam and MHL is the only other league I have played.

"I like playing here and don't want to play anywhere else after this," said Jong-hyun, adding that he hoped to play in the Korean League until next year and the MHL in 2025 could be his last tournament in Malaysia too."

The 39-year-old Jong-hyun has had a decorated international career where he played 333 times for South Korea, scoring a mammoth 275 goals since making his debut at the 2004 Athens Olympics and ended international career after his team failed to qualify for the 2024 Olympics.

"I have played for the Korean national team since 19 but I have retired after we didn't manage to make it at the Olympic Qualifier in Valencia (last month)," he said.

Meanwhile, Terengganu kept pace with Tenaga but after labouring for a 2-1 win over Thunderbolts at the National Hockey Stadium in Bukit Jalil yesterday.



Impact player: Tenaga Nasional's Jang Jong-hyun has joined Tenaga Nasional this season and the team have already won the Charity Shield on Feb 7. — MHC