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HOCKEY

SPANNER IN THT'S WORKS

Draw with UniKL put their title defence in jeopardy

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UNIVERSITI Kuala Lumpur (UniKL) played their game of the season to hold Terengganu Hockey Team (THT) 2-2 to realise their dreams of finishing fourth in the Premier Division of the Malaysia Hockey League yesterday.

Double champions THT dropped to second spot after the draw and now must win their remaining matches to defend the title.

"UniKL have made our life difficult with this draw and now we can't afford to drop any points in the remaining matches to defend our title," said THT coach Sarjit Singh.

Kuala Lumpur Hockey Club (KLHC) beat SSTMI 5-1 to top the standings on 29 points.

UniKL owe it to their keeper Thomas Santiago Salas from Argentina who displayed fantastic skills to save at least three certain goals.

It was a fighting display by the University side that came back twice to put a spanner in the aspirations of THT to win the league title.

UniKL coach Arul Selvaraj said: "They played well and really we could have beaten them had we been sharper. However, the draw has assured us of a top-four finish and that was the management target. Personally, my target is to try and finish higher," said Arul.

"Tommy was great in between the posts and that inspired the others, and even stopped a last-second attempt to hand us a point.

THT took the lead in the 23rd minute when Jang Jong Hyun converted a penalty stroke. But barely a minute later UniKL were on level terms through Pakistani import Mohamad Tousiq.

Their joy was however short-lived as Fitri Saari sneaked in a goal in the 30th minute to give the east coast

side a 2-1 lead.

THT wasted another two penalty corners but Najmi Farizal Jazlan made good of his in the 47th minute to hand UniKL a valuable point.

RESULTS — UniKL 2 Terengganu HT 2, UiTM-KPT 1 Tenaga Nasional 6, SSTMI 1 Kuala Lumpur HC 5, Maybank 4 TNB Thunderbolts 1.

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Sarjit Singh
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