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## Still a flick above the rest

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### Sarjit could still use dropped veteran Razie's speciality

By K.M. BOOPATHY

**PETALING JAYA:** Razie Rahim's vast experience as a penalty corner specialist is too valuable to go to waste and there could be a plan for him to pass on his skills to younger drag flickers in the soon-to-be formed national senior squad.

Razie has been the prime drag flicker for the nation for almost a decade and has scored the majority of his 143 goals in 330 international matches through penalty corners.

Age may have been the only possible reason for new head coach Sarjit Singh to drop the 37-year-old player from the national training squad on Monday.

Sarjit, who had made it clear that Razie

was left out due to the need to usher in a younger group of players in the rebuilding process, believes his former player can still contribute to the national squad.

The absence of Razie means the revamped squad will not have the firepower in the penalty corner department where the responsibility will fully be on the shoulders of Faizal Saari.

Sarjit will also be looking to groom several young drag flickers like Amirul Haniff Mamat, Fariz Harizan, T. Perabu and also a former player who is making a return – Syed Mohd Syafiq Syed Cholan – to fill the void left by Razie.

It remains to be seen if these players can eventually secure their spots in the final 30 of the Speedy Tigers squad but Sarjit may



**Tough act to follow:** Razie Rahim (front) has been the prime drag flicker for the nation for almost a decade.

need someone to help out in penalty corner drills.

"Razie has been a top flicker internationally and has plenty of experience which can be beneficial to the young players in the squad," said Sarjit.

"If he is interested, he can always pass his knowledge to the new young players. He can show them the techniques and guide them in some training sessions.

"We can accommodate him if he wants to help out the new kids. We have a few potential players who can be groomed for

penalty corners as currently, Faizal is the player with the experience of taking flicks on the international stage.

"I heard Razie could officially retire soon and we have to see what he has planned."

Aminuddin Zain was the other penalty corner option Sarjit may have had but the former national defender was left out of the training squad due a groin injury sustained last year.

The Tenaga Nasional player also didn't see action in the recently concluded Malaysian Hockey League (MHL).