

Headline	Rahull hopes good showing in MHL will earn him another call-up		
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## Rahull hopes good showing in MHL will earn him another call-up

By K.M. BOOPATHY

**PETALING JAYA:** The ambition to become a national player has been the drive behind Nur Rahull Hrsikesa Thatchana Murthy to keep pushing on despite missing the chance once in 2020.

A fine run with Nurinsafi in the 2020 Malaysian Hockey League (MHL) where the striker scored 14 goals saw him being called up for training by national coach A. Arulsevaraj.

However, Rahull was eventually dropped and the disheartened player turned to studies where he has now earned a bachelor's degree in building surveying and is also in the midst of completing his masters in the same field.

Currently working as a building manager in a firm in Penang, the 26-year-old Rahull had continued playing for Nurinsafi owned by his father S. Thatchana Murthy and for Kedah in the Razak Cup and other local competitions.

"Although I'm 26, I still have the

desire to play for the country and would definitely go full-time if I get the national team call-up," said the Sungai Petani-born Rahull.

"I was a little disappointed after my 2020 experience but my father urged me to continue playing.

"The national team will have a new coach but he may only start after the MHL and I think most of the current players will be selected.

"But if I still get another call-up, I will give it all to try and make it to the Speedy Tigers squad. I hope that new payers from this year's MHL will be given an opportunity."

Currently, he is the captain of Nurinsafi where he has scored eight goals and the club have also been pushing for a top four finish in the MHL.

Nurinsafi suffered a 1-5 defeat to favourites Tenaga Nasional in their sixth MHL match at the National Stadium in Bukit Jalil yesterday but Rahull stood tall.



**Superb:** Nur Rahull scored the lone goal in Nurinsafi's loss to Tenaga Nasional in the Malaysian Hockey League yesterday.

Rahull scored Nurinsafi's only goal in the 36th minute but missed two clear scoring chances which could have made it a tighter contest.

South Korean Jang Jong-hyun converted two penalty corners (49th and 59th minutes), Amirul

Hamizan Azahar added another through a penalty corner (23rd) while Norsyafiq Sumantri (11th) and Danish Aiman Khairul Anuar (12th) scored field goals to give Tenaga a comfortable win.

Meanwhile, league leaders Maybank were rocked by KL City, consisting mostly of Federal Territories' Malaysia Games (Sukma) players to a 2-2 draw at the National Hockey Stadium (Pitch 2) which have left the title race open again.

The result means that Tenaga need to win their remaining four matches to confirm title while Maybank must also win all their matches but awaiting them in the final clash are last year's treble winners Terengganu on Feb 27.

Nurinsafi, who have 12 points from six matches, too can finish in the top three if they win their next three matches against Thunderbolts tomorrow, JM Antbees on Feb 21 and Young Elephants on Feb 23 and try to upstage Terengganu on Feb 25.

TENAGA		5		NURINSAFI		1	
MAYBANK		2		KL CITY		2	
T'BOLTS		4		Y. ELEPHANTS		2	
T'GANU		3		UITM		2	
LIAONING		5		JM ANTBEES		1	
STANDINGS							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
TENAGA	6	4	2	0	37	8	14
MAYBANK	6	4	2	0	29	6	14
T'GANU	5	4	1	0	19	8	13
NURINSAFI	6	4	0	2	17	15	12
UITM	5	3	0	2	17	11	9
T'BOLTS	6	3	0	3	13	18	9
A. FORCES	6	2	0	4	13	20	6
LIAONING	6	2	0	4	12	24	6
KL CITY	5	1	1	3	15	19	4
Y. ELEPHANTS	5	1	0	4	7	17	3
JM ANTBEES	6	0	0	6	8	41	0