



17 MAR, 2024

Flight of hope

Sunday Star, Malaysia



Page 1 of 2



Flight of hope

Rahull will fly from Penang to KL daily to attend national team trials

Big milestone: Nur Rahull Hrsikesa Thaitchana Muruthi (left) finished as the top scorer for Nur Insafi in the Malaysian Hockey League with 18 goals.

By T. AVINESHWARAN

PETALING JAYA: Hockey player Nur Rahull Hrsikesa Thaitchana Muruthi is willing to travel on a flight everyday from Penang to Kuala Lumpur to fulfil a dream to be in the national team.

The 25-year-old striker, who featured for Nur Insafi in the Malaysian Hockey League (MHL), said he has exhausted all his unpaid leave options with his property management company and would need to travel every day after work to join the open trial matches organised by head coach Sarjit Singh.

Rahull is one of the 46 players selected and Sarjit will trim it down to 30.

"I was recently promoted as a building manager for a residential site and I'm

unable to take unpaid leave as I've exhausted my leave during the MHL when I played for Nur Insafi," he said.

"So I have decided to travel every day for the eight matches. I will fly in the evening and then return in the morning. Luckily, the matches are at 9.30pm, so I can play the matches."

Travelling by flight in such frequency may affect a player's fitness level but Rahull said he would be fine.

"It is my dream to play for the national team and I would do whatever it takes to make it happen," he said.

"Plus, coach Sarjit said he wants players who are committed, so I want to fulfil that though it can be a challenge at times.

"I just want to play my best hockey,

focus on my game and make sure I can be part of the final 30. If I get picked, then I would consider resigning my job to fully focus on my hockey career.

"I have not been capped as a player, but this year, I want to go all out to get an opportunity to don the national colours."

In the MHL, Rahull finished as the top scorer for his team in the league with 18 goals and was the fourth-highest scorer overall behind only Tenaga Nasional duo Azrai Aizad Abdul Kamal (32) and Jang Jong-hyun (26) and Terengganu's Faizal Saari (23).

Rahull is certainly hoping that his league form and balancing act will lead him to a place in the squad as he intends to be a worthy addition to the national team.