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# Speedy Tigers aim to end year with loud roar in home tourney

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Speedy Tigers aim to end year with loud roar in home tourney



**All set:** Malaysia will open their campaign in the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup against South Korea on Friday.

**PETALING JAYA:** The national hockey team will be aiming to end the year on a high note as they target a podium finish at the upcoming Sultan Azlan Shah Cup in Ipoh.

The Speedy Tigers will be competing on home soil from Nov 20-28 at the Azlan Shah Hockey Stadium, and will need to capitalise on the support as they hope to end their international calendar with a strong result.

Malaysia head into the annual tournament with confidence after clinching silver at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games last month and bronze at the Asian Champions Trophy in India earlier this month.

National team manager Datuk Najmi Razak said the team aim to maintain their positive momentum, particularly with the advantage of playing on home soil, but warned of complacency after positive results.

"The opportunity to end the year on a positive note through this tournament serves as motivation for the team," said Najmi.

"If we can maintain our discipline, team spirit and quality of play, I believe we can put up a strong challenge, and finishing on the podium is certainly within reach.

"Throughout the year, the players have gone through various challenges and commitments with the national team. 'We want to use this tournament as a platform to prove the team's capabilities and maintain the positive momentum we have built."

Malaysia will be hosting Australia, Pakistan, South Korea, Canada, and tournament debutants, the United States, in Ipoh.

Najmi added that the inclusion of two junior players in the squad was important in providing them senior-level exposure and helping their transition to the national team.

"We need to establish a clear pathway for young players to develop and eventually become part of the national team's strength in the future.

"Such exposure is one of the steps towards ensuring Malaysia has a pool of players capable of carrying on the Speedy Tigers' legacy," he said.

Malaysia will play a friendly fixture against Canada tomorrow, before opening their campaign against South Korea on Friday.

They face Canada the following day, before the United States on Monday, Australia on Tuesday, and Pakistan two days later.

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