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Tenaga aim to continue 'happy ending' show

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HOCKEY

Tenaga aim to continue 'happy ending' show

TENAGA Nasional are banking on their three-minute "happy ending" to be carried forward to the TNB Cup final against Terengganu Hockey Team (THT) at the National Stadium in Bukit Jalil today.

On Thursday, Tenaga were on the brink of being shut out of their own cup when Maybank took a 3-0 lead by the third quarter of the second leg semi-final.

But goals in the 57th, 59th and 60th minutes saw Tenaga claw back into contention, and they went on to beat Maybank 3-0 in the penalty shootout to set up a date against favourites THT who have already won the Charity Shield and League titles.

In the women's MHL, Negri Sembilan will attempt to become the first team to win a treble when they square off against Uni-

versiti Tenaga Nasional (UniTen) Thunderbolts.

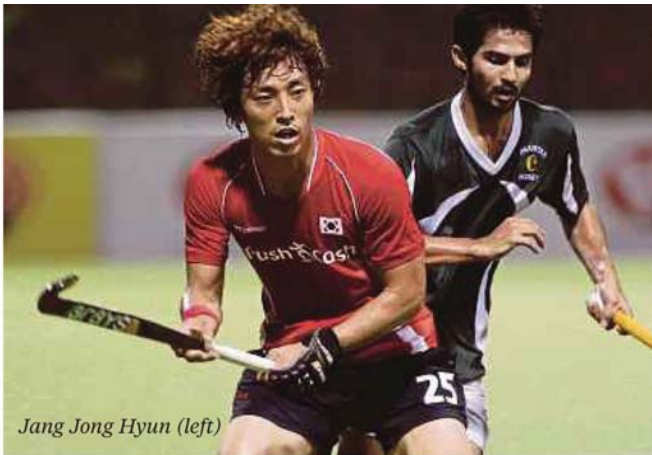
Two players will be under the spotlight in the men's final.

They are the tournament's top-scorer Azrai Aizad Kamal from Tenaga (39 goals) and second highest goals getter, South Korean Jang Jong Hyun (28).

When Tenaga coach Nor Saiful Zaini was asked if his penalty corner runners are ready to stop the "destructive" Jong Hyun, the triple Olympian replied in jest: "We're going to lock Jang in his hotel room and only allow him to come out after the match!"

This is clear that Tenaga have a game plan to "lock out" the Korean in today's final.

THT's Korean coach Seo Jong Ho, who was part of the Sydney 2000 Olympic silver medal-winning side, said even though they



Jang Jong Hyun (left)

had beaten Tenaga twice this season, his ace, Jong Hyun, is stressed out.

"Jang is stressed out as the first runners in the MHL are preventing him from scoring more goals.

"So I told him and the team to just go out and enjoy the final and don't think too much. The result will follow."

THT, formed 10 years ago, have won many titles since but never the treble.

Tenaga Nasional stopped THT in the TNB Cup last season, and it could be another happy ending

for them in the final.

As for the women's MHL, Negri look the better side: "We want to be the first women's team to win the treble, and we are prepared for all weather, even penalty shootout to achieve our dream."

UniTen coach Izzwan Salleh said his charges are ready to stop Negri from their treble march.

"We lost narrowly in the last two encounters, and will go all out to deny Negri their treble as we do not want to end up empty-handed this season," said Izzwan.

Jugjet Singh