

Headline	Terengganu want to end opening day jinx in MHL		
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Terengganu want to end opening day jinx in MHL

By AFTAR SINGH

KUALA LUMPUR: Terengganu are gunning for a third straight double – league and overall titles – when the Premier Division of the Malaysia Hockey League (MHL) begins today.

But that's for the long haul.

For now, all they want is to end their opening-game jinx against the Kuala Lumpur Hockey Club (KLHC) when the two teams meet in the Charity Shield match at the Batu Buruk Hockey Stadium in Kuala Terengganu today.

Terengganu have lost to KLHC in both the curtain-raisers over the last two years – 2-1 in 2014 and 6-2 last year. And both times at the National Hockey Stadium in Bukit Jalil.

No wonder coach Sarjit Singh, who guided Terengganu to the double both times, is hoping that his team will be third time lucky against KLHC.

"We respect KLHC ... they've won the double more than any other team in the league – five times. But I hope we can win this time as we have home ground advantage," said the former national coach.

Terengganu, who made their league debut in 2012, will be powered by six foreign players – South Koreans Jang Jong-hyun, Kim Jung-hoo and Kim Ki-hoon; Argentinians Pablo Javier Trevisan and Nicolas Enrique Della Torre; and



Hitman: Terengganu will once again bank on Faizal Saari (left) to get the goals when the Malaysia Hockey League season begins today. They face KLHC for the Charity Shield in Kuala Terengganu.

Pakistani Muhammad Irfan.

The East coast team will be led by forward Faizal Saari, who was the top scorer in the MHL for the last two years. He netted 16 goals in 2014 and 17 last year.

Faizal is also one of the four penalty corner specialists in the team. The others are Jong-hyun, Enrique Della and Irfan.

Terengganu skipper Shahrun Nabil Abdullah, who under went surgery in June for a torn meniscus on his left knee, is doubtful for today's match.

KLHC coach Muhd Harun Al-Rashid admitted that it won't be easy playing Terengganu in their

own backyard.

"Our three Pakistani players only arrived yesterday (on Wednesday). Two days of training is not enough for us to put up a strong challenge against a solid team like Terengganu," said the Singapore coach.

The three Pakistanis are Ali Shan, Muhd Umar Bhutta and Abdul Haseem Khan. KLHC also have South Korean Nam Hyun-woo, Dutchman Jelte van Gennip and Spaniard Pedro Lopez Alsonso.

The other four teams in the Premier Division are Tenaga Nasional, Sapura, Maybank and Universiti Kuala Lumpur (UniKL).

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FIXTURES
MALAYSIA HOCKEY LEAGUE

PREMIER DIVISION

■ **TODAY**

TERENGGANU HC vs KLHC - 6pm
(Kuala Terengganu Hockey Stadium)

TENAGA vs MAYBANK - 6pm
(KL Hockey Stadium)

SAPURA vs UNIKL - 6pm
(Tun Razak Stadium)

■ **SUNDAY**

KLHC vs SAPURA - 6pm

UNIKL vs TENAGA - 8pm
(KL Hockey Stadium)

TERENGGANU HC vs MAYBANK - 5.30pm
(Kuala Terengganu Hockey Stadium)

DIVISION ONE

■ **TOMORROW**

POLITEKNIK M'SIA vs NUR INSAFI - 5pm
(Taman Daya Hockey Stadium, JB)

TNB-THUNDERBOLT vs BJSS - 6pm
(KL Hockey Stadium)

ATM AIROD vs UITM-KPT - 6pm
(Tun Razak Stadium)

SSTMI vs IPOH CITY COUNCIL - 5pm
(SSTMI Hockey Stadium)

■ **SUNDAY**

SSTMI vs NUR INSAFI - 7pm
(SSTMI Hockey Stadium)

ATM AIROD vs BJSS - 6pm

UITM-KPT vs TNB-THUNDERBOLT - 8pm
(Tun Razak Stadium)

POLITEKNIK M'SIA vs IPOH CITY COUNCIL - 5pm
(Taman Daya Hockey Stadium, JB)