

Headline	THE LAST MINUTE CHAMPS		
MediaTitle	New Straits Times		
Date	20 Feb 2017	Language	English
Circulation	74,711	Readership	240,000
Section	Sport	Page No	43
ArticleSize	291 cm ²	Journalist	Jugjet Singh
PR Value	RM 29,979		



HOCKEY

THE LAST MINUTE CHAMPS

Penalty corner goal by Poul Fritz gives KLHC the title and RM100,000

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KUALA Lumpur Hockey Club (KLHC) scored a last minute penalty corner to beat Terengganu Hockey Team (THT) 3-2 and claim the Malaysia Hockey League (MHL) Premier Division League title yesterday.

THT needed only a draw to win their fourth consecutive League title, and were 2-2 until a penalty corner was awarded to KLHC with five seconds on the clock.

National No 1 drag flicker Razie Rahim made the attempt, which was deflected into goal by Anton Poul Fritz in the 60th minute to lay their hands on the RM100,000 prize money.

THT, who lost their first match in the League yesterday, received RM60,000.

The other KLHC goals were scored by Dedy Aryadi (seventh) and Nabil Fiqri (43rd).

THT's goals were scored by Jang Jong Hyun (ninth) and Tengku Ahmad Tajuddin (51st).

"From the start of the season, I have been preparing my players for today's encounter.

"We have been studying coach Sarjit's (Singh) strategy the whole season and knew that if we kept up the pressure until the very end, we have a good chance of winning, and we did just that," said KLHC coach Harun Al-Rashid who has been with the team for four years.

Universiti Kuala Lumpur (UniKL) finished third in the Premier Division when they edged Tenaga Nasional 1-0.

Tenaga only had themselves to blame as they squandered eight penalty corners with two in the final three minutes of the match despite having former national penalty corner flicker Amin Rahim as their coach.

UniKL pocketed RM40,000 for third, as they played a good tactical and disciplined game to outwit the more experienced Tenaga side.

Najmi Farizal Jazlan was the hero for UniKL as he converted the winner off a penalty corner attempt in the 12th minute.

UniKL were without defender Baljit Singh who had a sore hamstring and was rested for the semi-finals.

Also left out was Pakistani defender Aleem Bilal who was down with fever and flu.

RESULTS: Tenaga Nasional 0 UniKL 1, Kuala Lumpur HC 3 Terengganu HT 2, SSTMI 2 TNB Thunderbolts 1, Maybank 3 UiTM-KPT 1.

WEDNESDAY – Semi-finals First Leg: KLHC v Tenaga (Tun Razak, 6pm), THT v UniKL (Tun Razak, 8pm).

FRIDAY – Semi-finals Second Leg: UniKL v THT (Tun Razak, 6pm), Tenaga v KLHC (Tun Razak, 8pm).



KLHC's Anton Poul Fritz (second from right) celebrates with teammates after scoring the winning goal against THT in their MHL Premier Division match yesterday.