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## Brave Matador won't let titans Terengganu bulldoze their way through

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**KUALA LUMPUR:** Matador Hockey Club remain unfazed by the formidable reputation of Terengganu as the two sides prepare to face off in the TNB Cup semi-finals today at National Hockey Stadium 2 in Bukit Jalil.

The underdogs believe that anything is possible and past league results do not necessarily reflect the outcome of this knockout tournament.

Their confidence stems from a hard-fought 2-1 victory over TNB Thunderbolts in the quarter-finals on Tuesday, despite having suffered a heavy 6-2 defeat to the same opponents in the league on Jan 26.

It was a thrilling encounter for Matador despite taking the lead early through Pakistani player Sufyan Khan, who converted a penalty corner in the 10th minute.

TNB, featuring a squad of young talents, found the equaliser in the fourth quarter through Atif Aqil Zubir.

Matador secured their place in the semi-finals when Wabdul Waheed Ashraf Ranaa struck a field goal six minutes before the final whistle.

"It was a hard-earned victory and it's an honour for us to qualify for the semi-finals in our debut. We were



**Reliable:** Matador will be counting on Pakistani player Sufyan Khan to deliver the goals when they face Terengganu today.

determined to qualify for the semi-finals from day one and by God's grace, we did it. Yes, we had a lot of chances but we are also happy to have won the game.

"Credit to goalkeeper Adrian Andy Robert. He played his best game in the tournament in this match and was instrumental in saving many near-target shots. He also saved a penalty stroke.

"I must also congratulate all the players who gave their best in the game.

"They never stopped searching for goals until the very end," said Matador

team manager Sarwan Singh.

With that belief, they are set to take on Terengganu, fully aware that their opponents were recently crowned league champions and boast a squad filled with star players.

The east coast side had also cruised past Armed Forces with a commanding 8-3 victory in the quarter-finals.

In their last league meeting on Feb 8, Matador suffered a 4-0 defeat against Terengganu.

Also set to feature in today's semi-finals are Maybank, who will take on defending champions Tenaga Nasional Berhad.