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Premier Div champs Terengganu to face Maybank in last four

By S. RAMAGURU

KUALA LUMPUR: Premier Division champions Terengganu have received a favourable draw for the semi-finals of the TNB Cup (overall title) of the Malaysia Hockey League (MHL).

The east coast side, who are aiming for a third double in the MHL, will play Maybank in the last four.

The other semi-final pits former champions Sapura against Kuala Lumpur Hockey Club (KLHC).

Terengganu coach Sarjit Singh, however, was cautious after the draw.

"The teams this year are better prepared and there are no early favourites for the overall title.

If you look at the results in the preliminary round, all six teams have won matches and it will be foolish to take any team for granted," he said.

"Maybank are a good side and I do not see it as an easy match."

This is the third time that Terengganu and Maybank will be squaring off in the semi-finals for the overall title.

In the previous two outings, the matches were divided - with each winning one match. But Terengganu won on aggregate both times.

"So, there's something to learn from the past. Maybank have the ability to win and the knock-out stage is always a gamble," said Sarjit.

Maybank team manager R. Premkumar

admitted that Terengganu will be the favourites but believes they still have a chance to nick it.

"We hope they will make mistakes ... we know they can be beaten and that'll give us the confidence to try harder," he said.

This season, Terengganu have had the upper hand over the Tigers. In the two matches they played, the champions won 5-1 and 5-2.

Sarjit also revealed that his midfielder, Harmeet Singh, will be out for the rest of the season after fracturing a finger in the game against Sapura last Friday.

"Otherwise, my team is ready and raring to go," said Sarjit.

All the Premier Division matches will be held at the KL Hockey Stadium.