MHC plan to put Malaysia back on top

THE Malaysian Hockey Confederation (MHC) are on full throttle to make amends for two major disappointments, by formulating a comprehensive programme to take Malaysia back into the international arena.

Missing out on the Olympics and Junior World Cup by a hair’s breadth, the MHC are ready to rise from the ashes by naming a flurry of coaches to helm the men’s and women’s as well as development coaches.

“We have placed the disappointments of sitting out of the Rio de Janeiro Olympics and the Junior World Cup at the back of our minds and will be looking positively to make sure we are not in the same boat again,” said MHC president Datuk Seri Subahan Kamal.

The list of coaches were drawn out by the Coaching Committee chaired by Datuk Ow Soon Kooi, and endorsed by the MHC Executive Board yesterday.

The senior team will be helmed by Stephen van Huizen, while the notable changes were K. Dharmaraj named as women’s coach while Arul Selvaraj will assist Wallace Tan in the development side.

“Financially we have almost met our target of erasing our RM2.9 million debt (from eight months ago) to RM500,000 and hopefully in the next few months we will settle that amount as well.

“And with our new development blueprint, I am confident that Malaysia will be back in the World Cups (junior and senior) and 2020 Olympics.

“I had said that I will resign as MHC president if Malaysia do not qualify for the 2020 Olympics, but after looking at the development print, I am confident I will not have to call it a day,” said Subahan.

The “easiest” path to the Olympics would be to win gold at the Asian Games: “That would be our target from today, as even Technical Director Terry Walsh is confident we have the players to play in the Asian Games final, and hopefully lay our hands on the gold.”

Former national goalkeepers Nasihin Nubli, Roslan Jamaluddin and M. Nadarajan also have specific duties lined up.

“The goalkeeping department was one of the reasons we failed at the World League Semi-finals and Junior Asia Cup and I believe with a concerted effort from our goalkeeping staff, we will be able to have a bigger pool soon to rectify that department,” said Subahan.

Malaysia lost 3-2 to India after leading 2-1 in the World League quarter-finals and missed out on the Olympics, while in the Junior Asia Cup quarter-finals, Malaysia were leading South Korea 3-1 but lost wind in the last three minutes to be held 3-3 and then lost 4-1 in the shoot-out.

Coaching chairman Soon Kooi said coaches’ reports on both the tournaments attributed the defeats to players not being of sound tactical minds to hold the ball and play in a wider area of the field after taking the lead. This area will, again, be emphasised by the present batch of coaches.

COACHING STAFF: Men — Senior: Chief Coach: Stephen van Huizen; Assistant: Lim Chiow Chuan; Goalkeeper Coach Overall: Nasihin Nubli; Attachment: Madzli Ikmar.

Development Squad: Chief Coach: Wallace Tan; Assistant: Arul Selvaraj; Attachment: Amin Rahim.

Project 2020: Manager: Nor Saiful Zaini; Attachment: Mohamed Sufian.

1Mas: Chief Coach: S. Velappan; Assistants: Nor Harmezi Omar, Shahzan Amir.

Junior Goalkeeper Development Coach: M. Nadarajan.


Development Squad: Chief Coach: K. Gobinathan; Assistant: Leo Vincey; Attachment: Nor Saliza Ahmad.

Project 2020: Manager: Lailin Abu Hassab; Attachment: Catherine Lambok.

1Mas: Chief Coach: Yahya Atan; Assistant: Nuriza Sulaiman. By Jugjet Singh