

Headline	Terengganu in familiar role after first-day loss		
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Terengganu in familiar role after first-day loss

By S. RAMAGURU

KUALA LUMPUR: Stay calm. Don't read too much into the results of the opening ties of the Premier Division matches in the Malaysia Hockey League (MHL).

Three matches were played on Friday, with Kuala Lumpur Hockey Club (KLHC) posting the most impressive result – demolishing double champions Terengganu HC 2-1 in Kuala Terengganu.

The other two matches saw Maybank edging Tenaga Nasional 4-3 and Sapura beating Universiti Kuala Lumpur (UniKL) 2-0.

With each side having to play nine times – home and away – in the sixteam Premier Division, there is still time for the opening-day losers to bounce back.

After all, Terengganu had done it twice already. They lost in 2014 and 2015 – both times to KLHC.

And guess what? They came back to win the double on both occasions!

That said, the three teams who lost on Friday – Terengganu, Tenaga and UniKL – must win their matches today or they will find themselves too far behind to challenge for the title.

Today sees Tenaga playing UniKL, Maybank facing Terengganu HC and KLHC meeting Sapura.

Tenaga team manager Adam Izamry Idrus knows that his team must get back to winning ways.

"It was a close match against Maybank. We can't afford a second defeat. We will have to fight harder and make sure we come away with full points against UniKL.

"Although these are still early days in the season, we know that if we trail too far back it will only pile unnecessary pressure on the players," explained Adam.



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