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## Teams believe chase for final spots wide open

By S. RAMAGURU

**KUALA LUMPUR:** All four TNB Cup semi-finalists – Terengganu, Sapura, Maybank and Kuala Lumpur Hockey Club (KLHC) – are convinced that the first-leg ties are unlikely to decide the finalists.

In fact, they are bracing themselves for the semi-final clashes to go the distance, including a penalty shootout in the return leg.

The semi-finals will see Terengganu, who are gunning for their third double, facing Maybank and Sapura take on KLHC in a battle of former champions.

“I expect our semi-final against Maybank to be close,” said Terengganu coach Sarjit Singh (*pic*), who will again count on South Korean Jang Jung-hyun and local forward Tengku Ahmad Tajuddin to deliver the goals.

Jung-hyun has scored 10 goals from penalty corners while Tengku Ahmad has seven field goals.



But what has pleased Sarjit most in the last few matches is the impact the local players, like Ismail Abu and Faizal Saari, have made.

“This has given us a lot of confidence. It is important that we take our chances early and not let Maybank seize the early initiative,” said Sarjit.

While Terengganu may prove too strong for Maybank, the other tie – between Premier Division runners-up Sapura and former champions KLHC – looks too close to call.

Both teams are packed with star players, but lack consistency.

Sapura lost both their preliminary round matches to KLHC and coach Yahya Atan will have to dig deep into his bag to come up with a winning strategy.

KLHC team manager Ahmad Anuar Sham also admitted that “very little separates both teams” and that “this could go all way to the second leg”.

“Both the unseeded teams (KLHC and Maybank) are strong, so it really does not matter who we play in the semi-finals. We will have to give our best in both the legs.

“There is no room for mistakes and any team taking it easy will be punished. We have the edge over Sapura and we should get the better of them again,” said Ahmad.



### FIXTURES

**TNB CUP SEMI-FINALS**  
*(Matches at KL Hockey Stadium)*

**>TODAY**

**FIRST LEG**  
TERENGGANU vs MAYBANK 6pm  
SAPURA vs KLHC 8pm

**PRESIDENT'S CUP SEMI-FINALS**  
*(Matches at Tun Razak Stadium)*

**>TODAY**

**FIRST LEG**  
TNB-THUNDERBOLT vs POLITEKNIK M'SIA 6pm  
UITM-KPT vs SSTMI 8pm