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Tears again for bankers?

Maybank may have to forget about winning league title after blip

By K.M. BOOPATHY

KUALA LUMPUR: Maybank may have to forget about the league title yet again despite pulling off a huge 7-0 victory over UiTM in the Malaysian Hockey League (MHL) match at the National Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Coach Azrul Effendy Bistamam has been hoping to end their title drought this season but a 2-2 draw with KL City on Feb 16 has virtually ended their chances of securing the league crown.

Their last league triumph was achieved in 1994.

Terengganu are set to spoil their party after thrashing KL City 7-0 yesterday.

Should Terengganu overcome Nurinsafi in Bukit Jalil tomorrow and also win against Maybank on Feb 27, they will have a chance to retain their league title.

Maybank have 23 points while Terengganu have 22 points.

Azrul said the squad had bounced back from the setback against KL City and would have to finish as high as possible in the league.

"It will take a miracle for us to win the title as Tenaga have two easy matches next while Terengganu also have the chance to win the league," said Azrul.

"The players know what to



Top form: Muhajir Abdu Rauf (right) scored two goals for Maybank in their 7-0 win against UiTM yesterday. — MHC

expect after their draw against KL City but they have bounced back from the setback. They will now go all out to beat Terengganu.

"If we beat Terengganu, the title could be decided on goal difference and it will clearly give Tenaga the edge.

"However, I believe in this young team who have been together for the last four to five years and deserve a silverware this season. We have to regroup

our efforts and push for success in the TNB Cup."

Tenaga, who are on 20 points, should overcome UiTM in Bukit Jalil tomorrow and bottom of the table JM Antbees on Feb 27 and will be hoping for Terengganu to drop points against Maybank to win the title.

Maybank's goals were scored by national player Muhajir Abdu Rauf in the sixth and 10th minutes while veteran drag flicker

TNB MHL MALAYSIAN HOCKEY LEAGUE

RESULTS						
T'BOLTS	8	JM ANTBEES	2			
LIAONING	9	A. FORCES	1			
NURINSAFI	7	Y. ELEPHANTS	2			
MAYBANK	7	UITM	0			
T'GANU	7	KL CITY	0			
	P	W	D	L	F	A Pts
MAYBANK	9	7	2	0	48	6 23
T'GANU	8	7	1	0	35	10 22
NURINSAFI	9	7	0	2	36	22 21
TENAGA	8	6	2	0	65	9 20
UITM	8	5	0	3	25	20 15
T'BOLTS	9	4	0	5	24	26 12
LIAONING	8	3	0	5	21	28 9
A. FORCES	9	2	0	7	16	48 6
KL CITY	8	1	1	6	15	43 4
Y. ELEPHANTS	8	1	0	7	10	38 3
JM ANTBEES	8	0	0	8	14	59 0

Razie Rahim then converted two penalty corners in the 12th and 60th minutes.

Azrul Abdul Rahman (43rd), Hafiz Zainol (48th) and Najmi Farizal Jazlan (50th) completed the victory for Maybank.

A hattrick from Nur Rahull Hrsikesa Thaitchana Muruthi helped Nurinsafi secure a 7-2 win over Young Elephants to remain in contention for a top three finish in the league.

In another match, JM Antbees' attempt to halt their losing run wasn't fruitful as Thunderbolts secured a 8-2 victory.

China club Liaoning, the only foreign team in the MHL this season, ran riot against Armed Forces to secure runaway 9-1 win.

The victories yesterday confirmed Thunderbolts and Liaoning's place in the quarter-finals of the TNB Cup which begins on March 1.

The top teams from the league will advance to the TNB Cup where Tenaga Nasional, Maybank, Terengganu, Nurinsafi and UiTM have also booked their last eight spots.