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Big guns cruise in Alagendra tournament

By S. RAMAGURU

KUALA LUMPUR: It was plain sailing for the fancied teams in the opening round of the Tan Sri P. Alagendra Knockout Trophy as they eased into the quarter-finals.

Sapura overcame Division One's Nur Insafi 4-0 while another Premier Division team Tenaga Nasional overwhelmed the second-tier team UiTM-KPT 11-0.

Malaysian Junior Hockey League (MJHL) double champions SSTMI defeated their sports school counterparts Bukit Jalil 7-0.

At the Azlan Shah Stadium in Ipoh, the Ipoh City Council drew 3-3 with ATM Airod.

The army went through after winning the penalty shootout 4-3.

At the Taman Daya Hockey Stadium in Johor Baru, hosts Politeknik Malaysia defeated reigning Division One champions TNB Thunderbolt 3-2.

The Sapura-Nur Insafi tie was expected to be a close affair since the Penang side is the only Division One team with foreign players.

National trainee Joel van Huizen gave Sapura the lead in the 17th minute before Dangerous Lee (38th) increased their advantage through a field goal.

Faridzul Afiq Mohamed netted a brace in the 43rd and 52nd minutes to complete the scoring.

For Tenaga the big win was unexpected. They were seeking a win to halt their two-game defeat in the Premier Division.

They narrowly lost to Maybank (4-3) and UniKL (2-1) in the opening two league matches.

Manager Adam Izamry Idrus said they needed a win to give the players a morale boost.

"They responded well and put aside the two defeats. Still we cannot read too much into the win as we were playing a team from the lower division."

Arif Sabron scored a hat-trick while Amir Farid and Nik Mohamed Aiman scored a brace each.

The other scorers were Mohamed Hafizhuddin, Mohamed Ramadan Rosli, Mohamed Fariq Saadon and Syed Mihamed Shafiq.

RESULTS

SAPURA 4 NUR INSAFI 0
TENAGA 11 UITM-KPT 0
IPOH COUNCIL 3 ATM AIROD 3
(ATM win 4-3 on penalties)
BJSS 0 SSTMI 7
POLITEKNIK MAS 3 TNB 2
UNIKL 1 MAYBANK 0

On target: Sapura's Joel Van Huizen (right) scored a goal in the 4-0 victory over Nur Insafi in the Tan Sri P. Alagendra Knockout Trophy yesterday.

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