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Looking to the future

Club aim to groom youngsters for competitive hockey action

story by
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HIGHLANDER Hockey Club are looking at the TNB-QNET Selangor Hockey League to expose their players to high-level competitive matches.

Highlander HC, playing in Division Three of the league, went down 1-4 to KIE Hockey Team in a Group A match at the Pandamaran Hockey Stadium in Klang.

Highlander HC team manger K. Nithiyanathan said they were not too concerned with the results as their team comprised a group of Under-17 players.

"We had started a junior development programme a few years ago. The league is a platform to expose the trainees to some competitive matches. It will take some time for them to get use to the competitive atmosphere in the league.

"We have to be patient with them. We have some senior players to guide the juniors. We hope to see the team making steady progress in the coming matches.

"It will be tough for our players to match the other established teams in the league.

"But we are confident they will gain experience which will benefit them in the long run," said Nithiyanathan.

Despite the presence of several senior players, including former international M. Jayamaran, Highlander HC found their opponents more organised in their game.

KIE Hockey Team were swift in their attack and troubled the young Highlander HC with their excellent team work.

KIE Hockey Team deservingly scored through Md Izzuddin Md Anuar, Md Aiman Khoirun Faiz, Harmizar Arlis and Md Aqil Izzuddin Fazaly while hardworking Emran Afiq Shahrul Shamsi, one of the best players on the pitch, replied for Highlander HC.

IIUM Mustang showed their determination to be among the top teams in Division Three when they collected maximum points in their two matches.

They defeated Blue River Kuala Selangor 2-0 with

goals from Aimrul Amin Azizan and Muhd Nizar Saad.

In the second match during the weekend, IIUM Mustang scored a thumping 10-0 win over newcomers Jalak Lenteng.

However, the Group A match between Synergy and Selayang B was an incident filled one. There was a scuffle between Synergy's Dean Ward and Selayang B's Rajiv Nair in the 59th minute of the match.

Umpire Mohd Amirul Rashid gave the marching orders to Ward for retaliation while Rajiv was flashed the yellow card for starting the incident.

The score was then 1-1. Selayang B had taken the lead in the second minute through K. Saravanan but former Selangor player B. Gunabawan replied for Synergy.

In Group B, Puchong HC defeated IR HC 3-1 while Goodwood HC defeated Synergy-Selangor Indian Association 4-0.

IIUM Mustang are leading Group A with a maximum six points followed by Synergy (four points) and Selayang B (four points). Goodwood are leading Group B with six points.

In Division Five, for schools, SJI Warriors recorded their second win in Group A by thrashing SM Bandar Seri Putra 13-0 while SM Damansara Damai Senior edged Alam Shah Putrajaya 2-1.

TNB-QNET SELANGOR HOCKEY LEAGUE

RESULTS

Division Three

Group A: IIUM Mustang bt Blue River Kuala Selangor 2-0; Gombak Rovers bt Jalak Lenteng 2-0; IIUM Mustang bt Jalak Lenteng 10-0; Selayang B drew Synergy 1-1; KIE Ht bt Highlander HC 4-1.

Group B: Puchong HC bt IR HC 3-1; Goodwood HC bt Synergy-Selangor Indian Association 4-0.

Division Five (Schools)

Group A: SM Damansara Damai Senior bt Alam Shah Hockey Putrajaya 2-1; SJI Warriors bt SM Bandar Seri Putra 13-0.

Group B: Gerakan Belia 4B Puchong bt SM Damansara Damai Junior 16-0.

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1 KIE HC's Md Izzuddin (in green) charging ahead with the ball while Highlander HC's S. Devaraj tries to stop him.

2 KIE HC's Md Aqil (second from right) celebrates after scoring a goal.

3 Highlander HC's S. Rishi Kumar (right) is challenged by KIE HC's Hasbullah Nordin.

— Photos:
M. AZHAR ARIF/
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