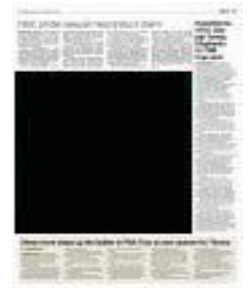


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Long wait ends with a bang!

Champions!: Tenaga Nasional players and officials celebrating their league triumph at the National Hockey Stadium yesterday.



Finally, Tenaga reign again with rain of goals

By K.M. BOOPATHY

PETALING JAYA: The agony of waiting for a first league title in 21 years is not only over for Tenaga Nasional – but also for their coach Norsauful Zaini at the National Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Norsauful was part of Tenaga's last league triumph in 2003 and the former international striker had to toil as a coach for more than 10 years to shed his club's nearly-man tag. And he did in emphatic style against JM Antbees with a mammoth 22-1 win in their last Malaysian Hockey League (MHL) match in Bukit Jalil.

Terengganu also secured a 4-3 win over Maybank in Bukit Jalil yesterday and were tied on 26 points with Tenaga but their superior goal difference easily won

them the title.

Tenaga were in a different zone when it came to scoring as they have amassed 92 goals and conceded just 10 in 10 matches.

The injection of their first ever foreign player – South Korean penalty corner specialist Jang Jong-hyun – has provided them the edge as he has scored 20 goals, mostly through his drag flicks and penalty stroke conversions, in 10 games for Tenaga.

National striker Azrai Aizad Abu Kamal top scored with six goals while Jong-hyun hammered in five and Syed Syafiq Syed Mohd Cholan scored four in Tenaga's blitzkrieg against Antbees.

The 58-year-old Norsauful, who has been a Tenaga employee throughout his career, said: "I was still a player when we last

won the league title in 2003 and it is a relief to finally land the trophy again as I don't have much time left. I will retire in two years time.

"We have always insisted on developing local players and have produced so many internationals who had gone on to play for other teams including Terengganu and former champions Kuala Lumpur Hockey Club (KLHC).

"This is the first time that we decided to hire a foreign player as we needed a penalty corner specialist and Jong-hyun was the ideal choice.

"He is not only good in drag flicks but is also a good defender and distributes the ball from defence to attack with efficiency, which is important in the modern game.



MALYSIAN HOCKEY LEAGUE

RESULTS & STANDINGS

TENAGA	22	JM ANTBEES	1
T'GANU	4	MAYBANK	3
UITM	2	LIAONING	2
Y. ELEPHANTS	1	KL CITY	1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
TENAGA	10	8	2	0	92	10	26
T'GANU	10	8	2	0	43	17	26
MAYBANK	10	7	2	1	51	10	23
NURINSAFI	10	7	1	2	40	26	22
UITM	10	5	1	4	27	27	16
T'BOLTS	10	5	0	5	28	27	15
LIAONING	10	3	1	6	25	33	9
KL CITY	10	2	2	6	19	46	8
Y. ELEPHANTS	10	2	1	7	15	41	7
A. FORCES	10	2	0	8	17	52	6
JM ANTBEES	10	0	0	10	17	85	0

TOMORROW'S FIXTURES

■ **TNB CUP Q-FINALS, FIRST LEG**

TENAGA vs KL CITY (6pm)
(National Hockey Stadium, Pitch 1)

T'GANU vs LIAONING (6pm)
(National Hockey Stadium, Pitch 2)

MAYBANK vs T'BOLTS (8pm)
(National Hockey Stadium, Pitch 1)

NURINSAFI vs UITM (8pm)
(Bertam, Penang)

"We also had some of our former players returning to the team this year and it had strengthened our squad."

Tenaga had also clinched the Charity Shield on Feb 7 after beating Terengganu 3-1 in the shootout after a 2-2 draw in regulation time.

Buoyed by the two trophies, Norsauful said Tenaga will target the TNB Cup, which begins tomorrow, to complete their first treble.

"We have been on a good momentum. It's now time to forget about the current success and refocus on the TNB Cup," he added.

Tenaga will meet KL City in the first leg of the quarter-finals at the National Hockey Stadium tomorrow while the return leg will be at the same venue on Sunday.