MHL: Dharmaraj wants KLHC to take Terengganu seriously

KUALA Lumpur Hockey Club (KLHC) coach K. Dharmaraj has cautioned his charges not to take the first round result against Terengganu as a yardstick when the teams meet again in the Premier Division of the Malaysia Hockey League today. Double champions KLHC whipped Terengganu 5-0 last weekend in Kuantan, but Dharmaraj is wary of the East Coast side who had pinched six of their best in a pre-season signing frenzy.

"Terengganu have the players to upset any team on their day, and I have had the pleasure of coaching some of them for many years before they moved on, so I know their strengths. "We did beat them with a high score last weekend, but that can't be used as an excuse to take them lightly. "My players know the score, and they will give their best again," said Dharmaraj, who is also the national juniors coach. Last season, KLHC had beaten Sapura 5-0 in the first leg, but ended up with a 1-1 draw in the return leg. "I have pointed this out to my players, and they know their work is cut out, and there is not going to be a Sunday stroll for us," said Dharmaraj. Good news for Dharmaraj is that his squad is injury free and the Pakistan signings have proven to be assets. This has resulted in KLHC cruising towards the league title as their nearest contenders are Tenaga Nasional and Maybank, while the rest have fallen by the wayside. Result -- Premier Division: Maybank 4 Tenaga Nasional 3. Today -- Premier Division: UniKL v Sapura (National Stadium I, 6pm), Nur Insafi v Maybank (National Stadium II, 6pm), KLHC v Terengganu (National Stadium II, 8pm). KLHC's Kevinder Singh (left) checks Terengganu's Thung Wei Chia during their match in the Premier Division of the square off again in the second round of the Malaysia Hockey League in Kuantan on April 5. KLHC won 5-0. Pic by Afif Abd.Halim