KLHC closer to title

PREMIER DIVISION: Defending champs trounce Terengganu

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KUALA Lumpur Hockey Club (KLHC) edged closer to the Malaysian League Premier Division title when they eased to a 4-1 win against Terengganu at the National Hockey Stadium in Bukit Jalil yesterday.

KLHC opened the scoring in the 24th minute through a Mohd Syamim Mohd Yusof strike and added to their tally eight minutes later when Chua Boon Huat calmly slotted home from close range.

The defending champions continued dominating the match in the second half. Pakistani Akhtar Ali scored from open play in the 41st minute and went 4-0 up thanks to a Kevinder Singh goal just five minutes later.

Tengku Ahmad Tajuddin Tengku Abdul Jalil, however, gave his side some consolation when he scored with a powerful drive which gave KLHC goalkeeper Roslan Jamauddin no chance in the 59th minute.

KLHC coach K. Dharmaraj, who warned his charges against complacency before the match, said he was happy with his players’ performances yesterday.

“We do not take any team for granted and I am happy with the consistency of our players,” said Dharmaraj.

“There are still another four games left and we will continue performing well and stay focused.”

Meanwhile, Maybank kept their title hopes alive with a hard-fought 4-3 win over bottom of the table side Nur Insafi, also at the National Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Maybank, who beat TNB 4-3 on Saturday, opened the scoring through Muhammad Waqas of Pakistan in the 12th minute after he guided a Azrul Affendy Bistaman cross into the net.

Nur Insafi, however, pulled level via an Ahmad Ridwan Zainal Abidin field goal just five minutes later.

An unmarked Jiwa Mohan put Maybank back in the lead in the 42nd minute only to see Ahmad Ridhwan equalise for Nur Insafi in the 46th minute from open play.

Jiwa again gave his side the upper hand when he slotted home from a penalty corner in the 50th minute but the game looked headed for a draw when Nur Hritiseta Thaitchana Murthi scored from a penalty corner in the 56th minute.

Maybank’s Shakeel Abassi of Pakistan, however, gave the Tigers’ maximum points when he smashed home the winner 20 seconds from time.

UniKL strengthened their claim for a spot in the knockout stages with a surprise 2-1 win over Sapura.

UniKL’s Mohd Noor Faeez Ibrahim scored his side’s opening goal through a penalty corner in the 21st minute. Taufik Abdul Hamid then put them 2-0 up after being put through onto goal by S.Selvaraju in the 59th minute.

Sapura’s Farizul Afiq Mohd pulled one back for his side through a penalty corner in the 62nd minute but it was not enough to salvage the match. The loss is Sapura’s second in a row after losing 3-2 to KLHC on Friday.