Faeez aiming for goals and Delhi high

JUST before the season began, Mohd Noor Faeez Ibrahim had had second thoughts about playing for UniKL in the Malaysian Hockey League (MHL).

He was tempted by a good offer from Terengganu HA but after much deliberation, turned down the deal. It turned out to be the right decision.

Faeez, or fondly known as Petak, is currently among the top scorers in the MHL with eight goals so far.

That puts him third in the scorers’ list behind TNB’s Faisal Saari (10 goals) and Sapura’s Khasif Ali (9).

With the top scorer award within his reach, Faeez is motivated to increase his tally after he and his teammates in the national junior team were honoured as the Best Men’s National Team at the National Sports Awards ceremony on Tuesday.

This came on the back of the juniors winning the Junior Asia Cup in May last year. It was the first time they had won the regional title which assured them a spot in the Junior World Cup finals in New Delhi this year.

“It is a wonderful moment and we never expected to win the award given that there are many senior teams that have also done well last year. It is indeed an honour for us and this will spur the team to do better in the Junior World Cup in December,” said the soft spoken Faeez.

“The team has talent and just needs to believe in their ability to ensure at least a top six finish in India.”

In the MHL, Faeez shoulders a bigger responsibility while donning UniKL’s colours. With the exception of S. Selvaraju and Baljit Singh, the team are relatively young.

“We do tend to make mistakes. Some are due to lack of experience while at times, we are guilty of overdoing things.

“But I still believe we are doing relatively well in the MHL. We are giving the more established sides a run for the money.”

“We need to get some points in Penang this weekend and I really hope that we get a good draw for the last eight.”