League champs KLHC now aiming for fifth double

BY S. RAMAGURU

KUALA LUMPUR: Kuala Lumpur Hockey Club (KLHC) will turn their attention to winning their fifth double after picking up the Premier Division crown in the Malaysia Hockey League (MHL).

The star-studded side, previously known as Ernst and Young, swept to their eighth straight league title with two matches to spare when they defeated Maybank 4-2 in Penang on Sunday.

KLHC, led by national player and veteran Chua Boon Huat, have 28 points after 10 matches in the seven-team league, nine more than second-placed Maybank. Tenaga Nasional are third on 18 points.

"Said KLHC team manager George Koshy: “We are a little lucky to win the league title this time. The matches are getting tougher to win and all the teams have strength in depth. It is just unfortunate that they dropped points to allow us to wrap up the title earlier than expected.”

He added that KLHC, the 2008, 2010, 2011 and 2012 double champions, would use the remaining matches to iron out the flaws in the team.

“Our game is not perfect yet. There are many areas where work is needed. So it is important that we pay more attention to these areas and use the matches as a stepping stone for the overall title,” said Koshy.

Being the Premier Division champions, KLHC have been given a bye in the quarter-finals. The second-placed team will also proceed to the semi-finals.

Joining KLHC in the knockout stage from the Premier Division are Maybank, Tenaga, Sapura, Universiti Kuala Lumpur and Terengganu.

The focus this weekend will be on the battle for second place between Maybank and Tenaga. There is also an interesting battle at the other end of the table. Fourth-placed Sapura (14 points), fifth-placed Terengganu (10) and sixth-placed UniKL (10) are the teams involved in avoiding the drop to Division One.

Bottom side Nur Insafi, with only a point, will play in Division One next season.
### PREMIER DIVISION
#### FRIDAY
- KLHC vs TENAGA NASIONAL - 6pm  
  (Pitch I, National Hockey Stadium, Bukit Jalil)
- NUR INSAFI vs SAPURA - 6pm
- MAYBANK vs TERENGGANU - 8pm  
  (Pitch II, National Hockey Stadium, Bukit Jalil)

#### SATURDAY
- UNIKL vs KLHC - 6pm  
  (Pitch II, National Hockey Stadium, Bukit Jalil)

#### SUNDAY
- SAPURA vs MAYBANK - 6pm  
  (Pitch I, National Hockey Stadium, Bukit Jalil)
- NUR INSAFI vs UNIKL - 6pm
- TERENGGANU vs TENAGA NASIONAL - 8pm  
  (Pitch II, National Hockey Stadium, Bukit Jalil)

### DIVISION ONE
#### THURSDAY
- BJSS vs Uitm - 6pm  
  (Education Ministry Turf, Jalan Pantai)
- SSTMI vs SUNDAY 2030 - 6pm  
  (Taman Daya Hockey Stadium, Johor Baru)
- MBI vs UNITEN - 8pm  
  (Sultan Azlan Shah Hockey Stadium, Ipoh)

#### FRIDAY
- TNB THUNDERBOLT vs BJSS - 8pm  
  (Pitch I, National Hockey Stadium, Bukit Jalil)

#### SATURDAY
- SUNDAY 2030 vs MBI - 8pm  
  (Pitch II, National Hockey Stadium, Bukit Jalil)
- TNB THUNDERBOLT vs UITM - 6pm  
  (Both matches at Pitch I, National Hockey Stadium, Bukit Jalil)

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**Table:**

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