Maybank finish second

PREMIER DIVISION: Make amends for Friday’s loss by beating Sapura

FADHLI ISHAK

MAYBANK bounced back from their 4-3 defeat to Terengganu on Friday to beat Sapura 4-2 in their final league match this season and secure the runners-up position in the Malaysian Hockey League Premier Division at the National Stadium in Bukit Jalil yesterday.

Sapura were first to get on the scoresheet through Dangerous Lee in the eighth minute but Maybank put themselves on even terms with a Muhammad Irfan penalty corner 10 minutes later.

The Tigers then took the lead in the second-half through Shakeel Abassi in the 41st minute only for Sapura to level through Mohd Razali Mohd Zulkifli just five minutes later.

Maybank, however, put the match out of Sapura’s reach when Muhammad Waqas and Shakeel both found the back of the net in the 57th and 69th minutes.

Maybank manager Abdul Rahim Musa said he was happy that the team managed to clinch the runners-up position in the league, which gives them the privilege of going straight into the semi-finals of the TNB Cup which starts later this week.

“I am quite happy with the performance today (yesterday) as we showed a lot of improvement compared to the game against Terengganu,” said Abdul Rahim.

“The boys played exactly to instructions and also managed to fix the defensive mistakes we made in our last game.

“It is definitely a great sense of achievement (to finish second) but we have no time to think of it as the knock-out competition starts in 10 days time for us.”

Maybank received RM50,000 for their second-place finish in the league. Champions Kuala Lumpur Hockey Club took home RM70,000 while third-placed Tenaga Nasional took RM40,000 for their effort.

Meanwhile in other matches yesterday, Tenaga Nasional, who needed Maybank to drop points against Sapura, had to settle for third despite winning 4-3 against Terengganu while UniKL clinched a 4-2 win over Nur Insafi.