Training for young goalkeepers

KUALA LUMPUR: A goalkeeping programme for the lower age group finally got under way, thanks to Universiti Kuala Lumpur (UniKL) and several national coaches.

The programme, organised with the help of the Malaysian Hockey Confederation (MHC), is aimed at teaching young goalkeepers the proper training methods and techniques.

Fifteen youngsters were yesterday put through their paces by national goalkeeping coach M. Nadarajan, who is assisted by Mohd Nasihin Nubli.

Present at yesterday’s launch were national coaches Paul Revington and A. Arulselvaraj.

Nadarajan admitted that there were no proper coaching methods at the lower age group level for goalkeepers.

“By the time the goalkeepers come in for special attention they are already 16 or 18 years old. It’s too late to teach them new techniques,” he said.

“With UniKL’s help, we are able to provide vital coaching for kids aged 10 to 12. I believe that in the long term, we will find good goalkeepers coming through the ranks.”

The former national goalkeeper and UniKL have managed to rope in current goalkeepers from the national men’s and women’s teams to help out with the programme, which is open to all children (boys and girls) aged between 10 and 13.

It will be held every Saturday at the National Hockey Stadium in Bukit Jalil.