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Fitri set to shine for Anderson

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BARELY a year ago, Mohamad Fitri Abdul Aziz was warming the Anderson team's bench as the second choice goalkeeper in the Junior Hockey League, patiently waiting for the big break that would catapult him into the limelight.

His appearances on the pitch were few because he was the understudy to local favourite Mohamad Mahathir Thayin who was considered unreplaceable at the time in Ipoh.

But even Fitri would not have dreamt that one year later he would be manning the goal for Anderson with Mahathir on the opposite end in a match with plenty at stake.

That will be the scenario tomorrow when Anderson face Petaling Jaya MC in the first leg semifinal of the Junior Hockey League 2001 at the Petaling Jaya Hockey Stadium.

Mahathir left Anderson after his SPM examinations at the end of last year and joined Petaling Jaya MC for this season's league challenge.

Fitri, the 17-year-old fifth former has come out of Mahathir's shadow with a series of solid performances to win over the hearts of the Andersonian fans.

Coach Mokhtar Baharuddin has nothing but praises for his goalkeeper's abilities as Fitri has been like a brick wall to quell the opposition's attacks.

"His teammates play with more confidence when Fitri is around as they know that they can rely on him to be the last line of defence when things do not go our way," said Mokhtar.

Fitri was at his best in the second leg quarterfinal match against OLAK last Sunday when he produced several breathtaking saves to single handedly deny OLAK the equaliser in a frantic final 20 minutes.

"I have always given my best in everything I do and will continue to do so not only in hockey, but in life as well," said Fitri.

Anderson beat MPPJ 1-0 in the league earlier in the season and the former understudy is hoping to keep a clean sheet in the semis to help Anderson qualify for the final.

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