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Sports-Hockey (Junior)

MELAKA MUNICIPAL COUNCIL CRUSH MPPJ TO EMERGE CHAMPIONS

KUALA LUMPUR, May 27 (Bernama) -- Melaka Municipal Council (MMC) bagged the National Junior Hockey League crown in grand style by trouncing Petaling Jaya Municipal Council (MPPJ) 6-0 in the final played at the National Hockey Stadium in Bukit Jalil here today.

With the win, MMC brought home RM25,000 with MPPJ pocketing RM15,000.

Both teams started promisingly but as the game progressed the MMC started to dominate the midfield and they opened accounts in the 23rd minute through a well taken penalty corner by S.Murugesan.

Play then swung from one end to another but the score stood 1-0 at halftime. In the second half, MMC stepped up the gear and were more superior in midfield launching attacks from almost every angle.

Mohd Redzuan Mohd Nasir doubled his team's lead in the 39th minute after dribbling past MPPJ defenders and slotting the ball home past goalkeeper Mohd Mahathir Thayin.

Two minutes later MMC increased their lead.

Murugesan, after receiving a pass from the left flank, beat the MPPJ defenders with his darting run, tricky body movement and wrist work before slamming home a beautiful reverse stick hit.

By this time, the MPPJ were totally demoralised. MMC scored their fourth goal through Nor Ikhram Sulaiman in the 58th minute.

MMC were awarded a penalty stroke in the 62nd minute and Wan Muhammad Asyrial stepped up to convert it. Seconds later Mohd Hoesni Rahmat got his name on the score sheet for goal number six.

MMC captain Abdul Shukor Adam was named the best player of the tournament while teammate Mohd Redzuan Mohd Nasir as the man of the match.

MMC coach V.Sarsidharan, at the post-match interview, said the two early goals in the second half had killed off MPPJ's game.

"After taking a one goal lead in the first half, I think the MPPJ players anticipated that we will defend the lead but we instead went all out to attack and that caught them by surprise.

"Our players clicked very well today and they deserved to be crowned overall champions," he said.

MPPJ coach Roslan Salikon said his team played their worst match so far this season while MMC played one of their best game.

"MMC deserved to win but I'm dissatisfied by the huge margin. We really missed the services of the suspended Hashim Rahmat and Mohamed Rohizan," he said.

Earlier in the 3rd/4th placing match, Bukit Jalil Sports School (SSBJ) easily beat Anderson 3-0 to finish third and walked away with the RM10,000 prize money. Anderson had to be satisfied with the RM5,000 for finishing fourth.

SSBJ led 1-0 at half-time through a field effort by Tengku Ahmad Tajudin Tengku Abdul Jalil in the 17th minute. Mohd Redza Maadun scored the second goal in the 51st minute.

He added the team's third goal via penalty stroke in the 67th minute.

-- BERNAMA

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