

05/08/2002

Telekom Pahang move on to semis

T'KOM PAHANG .....	2	ANDERSON .....	0
TERENGGANU.....	4	SERDANG HC .....	1
SPORTS SCHOOL.....	3	MSSKL.....	0
SEBERANG PRAI.....	2	DATUK TAHA .....	1
JOHOR SC.....	11	TAIPING .....	0

DEBUTANTS Telekom Pahang lifted the MHF-Milo-Admiral-NSC National Junior Group B League title when they overpowered SMK Anderson 2-0 at the Kuantan Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Telekom Pahang will now meet Ipoh City Council, the Group A runners-up, in the crossover semifinals in Ipoh on Wednesday.

However, with Serdang Hockey Club suffering a shock 3-0 defeat to Terengganu Sports Council at the National Hockey Stadium, the second semifinal berth is now a toss between Malaysia Sports School and Terengganu.

Terengganu need to beat Anderson by five goals today at the Tun Razak Stadium to pip Malaysia Sports School to the semi-finals.

The match in Kuantan got off to a furious pace with both teams hoping to score an early goal that would give them the psychological advantage.

The early exchanges were even but Telekom Pahang slowly took control of the match with national players Megat Arafiq Megat Tarmizi and Ismail Abu and Mohd Al-Fadhir Kassim in terrific form.

The home team won three penalty corners against one by Anderson in the first but neither team was able to convert them into goals.

Telekom Pahang finally broke the deadlock in the 35th minute as Ismail Abu pounced on a rebound after goalkeeper Nazrul Azim Rahimi blocked Al-Fadhir's stinging shot from just inside the circle.

Telekom ensured victory in the 66th minute as Mohd Zulkifli Abdullah scored with the strong push to the keeper's right following a penalty corner.

But for the semifinals against Ipoh, Pahang will not have the services of Ismail and Megat as both will be leaving today for a four-Test Tour of South Korea.

Yesterday, just hours before the team left for Busan, the issue of Tenaga players Azlan Misron and Riduan Nasir was also resolved.

Tenaga were reluctant to release their two key players because of the JHL semifinals clashed with the Busan Tour, but they finally relented and the duo were released by Tenaga.

\* At the National Hockey Stadium, Terengganu toyed with Serdang before Saiful Amri scored the first in the 10th minute. Mohamed Shahrudin (14th), Wan Shahrudin (34th) and Mahathir Fitri (63rd) piled on the misery and the consolation goal for Serdang was scored by Mohamed Fairuz in the 50th minute.

\* At the Tun Razak Stadium, Malaysia Sports School beat MSS Kuala Lumpur 3-0 with goals from Tengku Ahmad Tajuddin (12th), Zainor Lizam (50th) and Mohamed Amerrullah (54th).

\* At the MBBJ Stadium in Johor Baru, Johor Sports Council hammered Taiping District 11-0.

Today: Terengganu Sports Council v SMK Anderson (Tun Razak Stadium, 5.30pm).