

29/07/2002

Telekom Pahang on path to last four

Jugjet Singh

TELEKOM Pahang steamrolled Serdang Hockey Club 4-0 to make a strong claim for a semifinal ticket in Group B of the MHF-Milo-Admiral-NSC Junior League at the National Hockey Stadium in Bukit Jalil yesterday.

Telekom Pahang were upset 1-0 by Seberang Prai Municipal Council on Friday, but they made a remarkable return yesterday and broke Serdang's seven-match winning streak with style. But Serdang are still tops in Group B with 21 points while Pahang are third on 18.

And now, Pahang Telekom have two easy matches to play - against whipping boys Taiping Hockey Association on Tuesday and Synergy Hockey Club on Friday before the cruncher against SMK Anderson on Sunday.

Yesterday, the toast of Pahang was Mohamed Al-Fadhir Kasim who scored two beautiful field goals in the 46th and 66th minutes to kill Serdang's fightback.

The first goal was scored by Mohamed Izuan in the 17th minute after which Telekom took total control of the match. Mohamed Supian scored the third in the 64th minute.

"The defeat against Seberang Prai (where they did not have the services of nine regulars) was actually a blessing because the boys were on a high and it was a dangerous thing going into a tough match like Serdang.

"But we might again be without key players on Sunday because the national team is leaving for South Korea on August 3 and chances are high that two of my players will make the trip," said Pahang coach Izwan Suhardi.

Ismail Abu and Megat Arzafiq Termizi are the two Pahang players who might receive national call-ups.

* At the Kuala Terengganu Hockey Stadium, Terengganu Sports Council hammered the daylights out of Taiping District by scoring 15 goals in what is the highest score since the inception of the JHL.

The Terengganu goals were scored by Wan Shah Rulnizam (first, 32nd, 57th, 62nd) Mohamed Faizal (third), Shah Radzuan (11th), Mohamed Shahrin (12th, 23rd, 35th, 48th, 65th), Mahathir Fitri (23rd), Che Wan Faizul (53rd), Mohamed Shahrin (65th) and Mohamed Ashrafizree (69th).

* At the Tun Razak Stadium, Seberang Prai Municipal Council beat MSSKL with a solitary goal from L. Pragas in the 58th minute.

* At the Malacca Hockey Stadium SMK Datuk Taha, who whipped Taiping 14-0 on Friday, were humbled 5-0 by Malaysia Sports School. The MSS goals were scored by Mohamed Razie (eighth, 13th), Mohamed Noor (15th), Mohamed Anwar (51st) and Mohamed Amerrulah (53rd).

* At the Pandamaran Hockey Stadium, Johor Sports Council beat Synergy Hockey Club 5-1 with goals from Baljit Singh (eighth), S. Yogeswaran (14th), Nasrullah Ali (27th), Mohamed Hamzah (55th) and Amir Hamzah (65th). Synergy's goal was scored by R. Chobenan (45th).

Tuesday: Telekom Pahang v Taiping Hockey Association (5.15pm, Kuantan