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1957 victory still sweet

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Ex-footballer remembers winning Malaya Cup and meeting Tunku



Malaysiaku Gemilang

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IPOH: Ramadass Rao was only 18 when he played for Perak and scored two of the three goals that helped his teammates achieve their wildest dream – a Malaya Cup victory.

It was also the day when he first shook hands with Tunku Abdul Rahman.

The police officer's son recalled the day he met Tunku and Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Abdul Rahman soon after the win.

"I didn't get much chance to meet the King but Tunku spoke to me as I was the youngest player in the team.

"I will always remember Tunku as a humble and obliging man," said the 68-year-old grandfather.

"He doesn't talk to you as if he was someone important. If he was younger, I think he would have been play-



Special moment: Tunku congratulating Ramadass during a dinner at Tunku's residence after Perak won the Malaya Cup in 1957. It was a memorable day for Ramadass (inset).

ing football with me!" he added.

Ramadass will never forget the day his team beat favourites Selangor 3-2, to lift the coveted cup at Merdeka Stadium on Oct 19, 1957.

His teammate Wong Kong Leong scored the winning goal.

"One newspaper had the headline

'Perak brings back Cup after 26 years', because it had been that long since the state had won," he said at his Bercham home here.

The Malaya Cup started in 1921 and the annual tournament was renamed Malaysia Cup in 1968.

From a boy who first played football

using a tennis ball with his bare feet, Ramadass feels that he - and his beloved country - have come a long way.

Now the proud father of four children, Ramadass still keeps mementoes of his glorious sporting days such as his original jersey, newspaper cuttings and medals.