

Their goal is clear

Treble holders UniKL hit double figures to warn rivals

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PETALING JAYA: Universiti Kuala Lumpur (UniKL) sounded a warning to their rivals that it's going to take a lot more than determination to deny them a successful defence of the triple trophies at stake in the Malaysia Hockey League (MHL) after enjoying a goal spree.



UniKL showed their class by thumping Nur Insafi 11-0 to take over the top position from Maybank at the National Hockey Stadium in Bukit Jalil yesterday.

The treble holders' only "blemish" so far was a 0-0 draw against Tenaga Nasional in the Charity Shield last week, which they won on sudden-death shootout.

National defender Razie Rahim started the rout with a fifth-minute penalty corner and went on to bag a hattrick (ninth and 57th).

The other goals for UniKL were scored by Izwan Firdaus (seventh), Faridzul Afiq (24th), Tengku Ahmad Tajuddin (33rd), Pa-vandip Singh (35th), Nur Rahul Hrsikesa (37th), Hafiz Zainol (39th) and Faridzul Afiq (45th, 55th).

UniKL have Universiti Teknologi Mara, TNB Thunderbolts and Maybank to play in their remaining fixtures and team manager Datuk Amir Azhar Ibrahim is all smiles.

“We have three more matches to complete in the league and if Tenaga Nasional also don’t drop any points, then the winners will be determined by goals,” said Amir.

“UniKL did not have a good day against Sabah on Tuesday as they could only score four goals.

“Nothing went right in the match against Sabah and so my players scored early goals against Nur Insafi today to make sure we get as many as possible from this match.

“We know well that the remaining three matches can’t be taken lightly and our strongest challenge will come against Maybank in our final match.”

If all goes according to plan, UniKL look good to defend their league title, which may come down to goal difference against Tenaga.

UniKL will not play until Sunday and coach Megat Azrafiq Termizi said the two days of rest would put the team on a good footing.

“We went through a hectic week and the extra rest is good for the players to recover. We will get the team physio to treat the players. Apart from that, we also want to work on our penalty corner conversions,” he said.

Meanwhile, Tenaga cruised to a 5-0 win over Sabah with goals coming from Syed Syafiq Syed Cholan (second), Shahril Saabah (16th), Aminudin Zain (35th), Azrai Aizad Kamal (51st), and Norsyafiq Sumantri (57th).