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THURSDAY DECIDER: They must now hope their conquerors SSTMI and UniKL draw to claim title

JUGJET SINGH

TENGGU Mahkota Ismail Sports School (SSTMI) kept alive their hopes of defending the Division One League title when they beat Petaling Jaya City Council (PJCC) 4-0 in the NSC-Milo-MHC Junior Hockey League yesterday.

The league title will now be decided on Thursday when SSTMI play UniKL Young Guns in a winner-take-all match as both teams are tied on 15 points.

PJCC ended their campaign on 18 points but their goals-scored count is too low to challenge for the title unless the SSTMI-UniKL match ends in a draw which means they will be crowned champions without breaking sweat while watching from the stands.

Playing at the National Hockey Stadium in Bukit Jalil, PJCC only needed a draw to lift the League title but SSTMI's Shahril Saabah dented their hopes early with a fourth minute penalty corner

goal.

After that, SSTMI took control of the match and won four more penalty corners but scored their second in the 30th minute off a Mohamed Zulhamizan field goal to

enter the break with the title in sight.

Huzairy Zin then made it 3-0 in the 43rd minute before Azwar Rahman helped himself to another in the 53rd minute.

SSTMI coach Wan Roslan Wan Rahman knows the score and said: "The defeat to Anderson (2-1) on Friday turned out to be a blessing as it was a wake-up call for my players to play better against PJCC. Now we can't afford to make too many mistakes in the match against UniKL as it is a winner-take-all."

PJCC team manager Zanal Abidin was disappointed with the defeat but is keeping his fingers crossed that the UniKL v SSTMI

match ends in a draw.

"We will be on the stands on Thursday when UniKL and SSTMI play, and hopefully it is a draw so we can celebrate our maiden JHL League title," said Zanal.

Two red cards were yesterday flashed to PJCC player Khairol Shafik and Politeknik player Mohamed Kamarul.

RESULTS — Division One: SSTMI 4 PJCC 0.

Division Two — Group A: Nur Insafi 1 Kelantan HA 7, Perlis 1 Mas Penang 0, Anderson Jnrs 3 SER-ATAS 0.

Group B: Tunas Muda Pahang 2 Bukit Jalil SS Juniors 3, Padang Midin 2 Johor HA 5, Olak PKT 1 Politeknik KPT 2.



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SSTMI players **celebrate after defeating PJCC** at the National Hockey Stadium in Bukit Jalil yesterday. Pic by Hasriyasyah Sabudin