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Battle royale for Division One title

THE NSC-Milo-MHC Junior Hockey League Division One title could go to one of three teams when UniKL Young Guns and Tengku Mahkota Ismail Sports School (SSTMI) play for keeps at the National Hockey Stadium in Bukit Jalil today, with Petaling Jaya City Council (PJCC) waiting in the wings.

UniKL and SSTMI are tied on 15 points, while PJCC are sitting pretty on 18. However, UniKL and SSTMI have a better goal difference than PJCC which means if either team win today, the title is theirs.

But if the match ends in a draw, then PJCC will be crowned champions.

"This is a winner-take-all situation and my players are primed to give their best. A win is what we are looking for after being silver medallists in both the league and overall to SSTMI last season," said UniKL coach Faiz Isa.

And the title aspirants received a surprise visit from their chairman, Datuk Dr Adham Baba and newly appointed president/CEO, Prof Dr Mazliham Mohd Su'ud ahead of the big battle.

The only blemish in UniKL's run in the league was a 2-1 defeat to PJCC, while SSTMI's blot was a surprise defeat to Anderson of Ipoh 3-2.

SSTMI coach Wan Roslan Wan Rahman said: "Both the teams are title contenders so it will be a difficult match and could be separated by the number of mistakes each side makes. However, after the shock defeat to Anderson, I believe my players have gotten out of their comfort

zone and are now more dangerous than when the league started."

But if the 70 minutes do not provide a winner, PJCC will win their first League title since the inception of the JHL in 1995.

Results — Division One: MBI-Anderson 1 SSTMI Jrs 3, MSS Penang-USM 1 Malacca High 1.

Division Two, Group A: Anderson Juniors 7 Matri Perlis 0, MSS Perlis 4 Seratas 2

Group B: MSD Kuala Langat v Politeknik-KPT (Kuala Langat failed to show up), SMK Datuk Taha 10 SMK Padang Midin 0, MSS Johor 1 Olak-PKT 6.

Today — Division One: MSSP-USM v SSTMI JRS (USM Hockey Stadium, Penang, 5pm), UNIKL vs SSTMI-Thunderbolt (National Hockey Stadium, Bukit Jalil, 5pm).

Division Two, Group A: Star v Matri Perlis (Sultan Azlan Shah Stadium, Ipoh, 5pm), Seratas v Nur Insafi (Sultan Azlan Shah Stadium, Ipoh, 7pm).

Group B: KLSS v SMK Padang Midin (National Hockey Stadium, Bukit Jalil, 5pm), SMK Tunku Besar v Tunas Pahang (Tampin Hockey Stadium, 5pm), BJSS JRS vs Politeknik-KPT (Education Ministry Turf, 5pm).