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SSTMI retain title

TENGGU Mahkota Ismail Sports School emerged league champions of the MHC-MILO-NSC Junior Hockey League Division One when they edged UniKL Young Guns 4-3 in a winner take all clash, at the National Hockey Stadium in Bukit Jalil.

It was a thrilling game but not many fans turned up, thanks to Malaysia Hockey Confederation (MHC) who did not move the match to 7pm despite an appeal by UniKL.

The umpires made a difference when they allowed SSTMI's M. Najmi Farizal Jazlan to complete 70 minutes despite three clear incidents where he hit the UniKL players, which warranted a sending off.

SSTMI were deserving champions having played four matches in eight days. Despite losing to MBI-Anderson, they came back strongly to win against PJCC and UniKL.

"It was surprising to score all four goals from penalty corners. Guess everything worked well for us today. It is indeed a welcome relief to defend the title and we can now focus on the overall title," said SSTMI coach Wan Roslan.

UniKL took the lead in the 6th minute through Mohd Azrul Hasbullah who made a brilliant run down the centre and finished it off with a deft push into an angle to put his team 1-0 up.

But SSTMI were undeterred and came back strongly to take the lead as Azril Misron knocked in a penalty corner rebound in the 14th minute before Amir Zulkarnain Robangi put the Johorians 2-1 up by converting a penalty corner in the 27th minute.

However, UniKL hit back in the 29th minute via an own goal, with Najmi having the last touch to turn the ball into his own goal. A penalty corner set piece was finished off by Azli in the 31st minute to give SSTMI a halftime 3-2 lead.

UniKL came out with their guns blazing and were on level terms in the 38th minute through Mohd Syafiq Zulzairin. However Amir had the final say four minutes from time, giving SSTMI the title and RM15,000 that came with it.

PJCC took home RM10,000 for finishing second as UniKL netted RM8,000 for third place. — <http://www.mjhl.com.my>



CHEERS: SSTMI players celebrating their win over UniKL Young Guns