

Headline	SSTMI's deadly conversions		
MediaTitle	New Straits Times		
Date	08 Feb 2013	Color	Full Color
Section	Sport	Circulation	136,530
Page No	47	Readership	330,000
Language	English	ArticleSize	459 cm ²
Journalist	JUGJET SINCH	AdValue	MYR 14,975
Frequency	Daily	PR Value	MYR 44,924



HOCKEY

SSTMI's deadly conversions

ON SONG: Penalty corner goals help champs retain title

JUGJET SINGH

TENGGU Mahkota Ismail Sports School (SSTMI) Thunderbolts survived a seven-goal thriller to defend their NSC-Milo-MHC Division One league title at the National Hockey Stadium in Bukit Jalil yesterday.

The double champions edged UniKL Young Guns 4-3 in a highly entertaining match which went to the wire and kept the fans at the edge of their seats for 70 minutes.

Even though UniKL took a fifth minute lead, Thunderbolts converted four penalty corners out of the six they won, to grab the title.

The Thunderbolts heroes yesterday were Amir Zulkarnain who scored two penalty corner goals in the 27th and 66th minutes, while the other two were scored by Azril Misron in the 13th and 31st minutes.

The UniKL goals were scored by Azrul Hasbullah (fifth), while Thunderbolts Najmi Farizal scored an own goal in the 28th minute, and the third was scored by Syafiq Zulzairin in the 38th minute.

Thunderbolts received RM15,000, while second spot went to Petaling Jaya City Council, who

also ended on 18 points but lost out on goal difference and received RM10,000. UniKL won RM8,000 for third placing while fourth placed Anderson received RM7,000.

"It was a grueling match for my players because we played four matches back-to-back and they did look tired in patches, but their never say die attitude finally won the day," said Thunderbolts coach Wan Roslan Wan Rahman.

Wan Roslan was also surprised with their penalty corner conversion: "It was an almost perfect show in the penalty corners which won us the title, and frankly speaking, I did not expect the win to come from that department," said Wan Roslan.

UniKL coach K. Embaraj was disappointed with the result, but not with his players.

"My boys have every reason to hold their heads high even in defeat, as they gave their all. Still, I believe in looking forward, and the overall title can be ours if they play with this much of commitment in the knock-out stage," said Embaraj.

The quarter-finals

start on Feb 22.

RESULTS — Division One: USM 4

SSTMI Juniors 3, UniKL 3 SSTMI 4.

Division Two, Group A: Star 3 Matri 1, Seratas 5 Nur Insafi 0.

Group B: KLSS 6 SMK Padang Midin 0, SMK Tunku Besar 3 Tunas Pahang 2, BJSS JRS 0 Politeknik-KPT 3.

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Wan Roslan
Thunderbolts coach

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SSTMI players celebrate winning the NSC-Milo-MHC Division One league title at the National Hockey Stadium in Bukit Jalil yesterday.

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STANDINGS

DIVISION ONE							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
SSTMI	7	6	0	1	33	6	18
PJCC	7	6	0	1	11	9	18
UNIKL	7	5	0	2	31	10	15
MBI-ANDERSON	7	2	2	3	11	19	8
SSTMI JUNIORS	7	2	1	4	12	21	7
MALACCA HIGH	7	1	3	3	10	22	6
BJSS	7	1	1	5	9	17	4
MSSP-USM	7	1	1	5	11	24	4

DIVISION TWO							
GROUP A							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
MSS KELANTAN	8	8	0	0	38	10	24
ANDERSON JR	8	5	2	1	25	9	17
MSS PERLIS	8	5	2	1	27	14	17
KEDAH HA JR	8	4	3	1	17	6	15
STAR	8	4	1	3	9	15	13
IMAS PENANG	8	3	0	5	16	15	9
SERATAS	8	1	1	6	8	17	4
MATRI	8	1	1	6	6	30	4
NURINSAFI	8	0	0	8	2	32	0

GROUP B							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
KLSS	8	8	0	0	34	8	24
POLIKPT	8	7	0	1	27	6	21
OLAK-PKT	9	6	0	3	27	10	18
DATUK TAHA	9	4	2	3	32	12	14
*K. LANGAT	7	4	0	3	10	28	12
TBSS	9	4	0	5	19	22	12
TM PAHANG	8	3	1	4	19	18	10
JOHOR HA	9	2	2	5	18	29	8
BJSS JR	9	2	1	6	11	31	7
PDG MIDIN	9	0	0	9	11	43	0

*K.Langat disqualified from league