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Odds stacked against KLSS

MILO CUP: SSTMI simply too strong for them

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DIVISION One champions Tengku Mahkota Ismail Sports School (SSTMI) will be the clear favourites when they play Kuala Lumpur Sports School (KLSS) in the first leg of the Milo Cup quarter-finals at the Taman Daya Stadium in Johor Baru today.

However, 2012 double champions are not invincible as Anderson of Ipoh showed when they beat them 3-2 in a league match.

SSTMI coach Wan Roslan Wan Rahman, however, believes it was that defeat that will motivate his players to retain the Milo Cup.

"That was the wake-up call that my players needed as complacency was setting into our game.

"Now that we have retained one title, we will be gunning for the Milo Cup by going all out in the first leg," said Wan Roslan.

League runners-up Petaling Jaya City Council will meet SSTMI Juniors at the National Hockey Stadium, and even though they will not have two key players for both legs, they still have enough fire-power to advance to the semi-finals.

PJCC will not have Khairul Shafik Kasim, suspended for three matches after picking up two yellow cards in their final league encounter against SSTMI while Asraf Zulzali will miss two matches after being sent off against Malacca High School.

The most balanced tie is between Anderson and Kelantan, as there is little to separate the two teams.

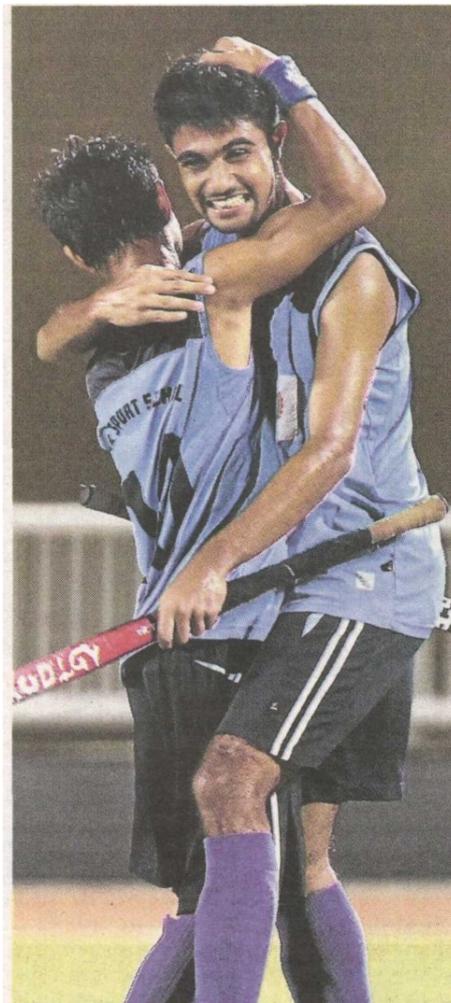
Kelantan lost play-maker Ashraf Mohamed Noor to a red card, but have many other talented players who can turn the tide on Anderson.

However, Kelantan play robust hockey and tend to lose their cool when the chips are down, while Anderson have matured as the league progressed.

The last quarter-final tie is between UniKL Young Guns and Malacca High School, with the form book favouring the university side.

UniKL will also play with a handicap, as Azrul Hasbullah and Meor Azuan Hasan will be watching the first leg from the stands after collecting maximum demerit points.

TODAY — Q-finals, 1st leg:Tengku Mahkota Ismail Sports School v KL Sports School (Taman Daya, 5pm); Anderson v Kelantan (Azlan Shah Stadium, 5pm); UniKL Young Guns v Malacca High School (National Stadium Pitch I, 5pm); Petaling Jaya CC v SSTMI Juniors (National Stadium Pitch II, 5pm).



Kuala Lumpur Sports School striker **Jagveen Singh** (right) celebrates after scoring the winner against Kelantan in the Division Two final. KLSS won 2-1 and Jagveen is among the players to look out for in their Milo Cup quarter-final clash against Tengku Mahkota Ismail Sports School today.