Tenaga stormed into the semi-finals of the Malaysia Hockey League, Sapura defeat gritty UniKL

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KUALA LUMPUR: Former champions Tenaga Nasional stormed into the semi-finals of the Malaysia Hockey League (MHL) for the overall title when they thrashed debutants Terengganu 5-1 in the second leg of the quarter-finals at the National Hockey Stadium in Bukit Jalil. Tenaga, who qualify with an 8-3 aggregate, will meet Maybank in the last four on May 10. The return leg will be on May 12. Tenaga, who won the first-leg tie 3-2, suffered a fright in the first half when Azlan Misron scored off a goalmouth melee in the 30th minute to level the aggregate score at 3-3. But Tenaga emerged from the break a resurgent side, hammering five goals past Terengganu with aplomb. Faizal Saari got the show started with a penalty corner goal in the 41st minute. Then came Tenagas 10-minute goal spree Mohd Amin Rahims penalty corner flick (53rd minute), Mohd Azammi Adabi (55th), Faizal (59th) and Faiz Helmy (63rd). Tenaga skipper Mohd Amin said after the match that their only problem in the first-half was their inept finishing. We created a lot of chances in the first-half but were not clinical. But the second-half was different. Once we scored the first goal, the tempo of the game changed and we wrest control of the game. This is what we need to do make the chances count!, he said. The start of the other quarter-final match between UniKL and Sapura was delayed for 45 minutes due to a downpour. And when it did get off, both teams came alive only in the second half as Sapura had to endure a late rally by Universiti Kuala Lumpur (UniKL) before prevailing 3-2 to qualify for the semi-finals with a 6-4 aggregate. Sapura will face champions Kuala Lumpur Hockey Club (KLHC) in the last four. Pakistani ace Khasif Ali struck twice in five minutes 39th and 44th minutes to put Sapura ahead from penalty corner set pieces. The brace took his tally in the tournament to 17 goals one ahead of last years top scorer Faizal Saari. UniKl managed to pull a goal back in the 60th minute through Dedy Aryadi Jumaidi, also from a penalty corner set piece. Two minutes later, Mohd Noor Faeezs drag flick goal for UniKL made it 2-2. But Joel van Huizen had the final say when he made sure of Sapuras place in the final when he scored the winner in the 70th minute.