



Headline	HOCKEY: Big guns safely through		
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HOCKEY: Big guns safely through

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HEAVYWEIGHTS Tenaga Nasional and Sapura both advanced to the semi-finals of the TNB Cup with second-leg wins against Terengganu and UniKL respectively at the National Hockey Stadium in Bukit Jalil yesterday. Tenaga were slow off the blocks but eventually outclassed Terengganu 5-1 to book a spot against Maybank in the semi-finals next Friday with an 8-3 aggregate win. Both teams were cautious in their approach in the opening minutes but Tenaga had their fair share of chances as they were awarded three penalty corners in the half but failed to convert. It was Terengganu, who lost the first leg 3-2 on Wednesday, who got on the scoresheet first through an Azlan Misron effort in the 30th minute. Tenaga, however, bounced back in the second-half and leveled the match through a Faizal Saari penalty corner five minutes after the restart. Tenaga, who finished third in the league, then added to their tally with another penalty corner effort by Muhammad Marhan Mohd Jalil in the 53rd minute and went 3-1 up when Muhammad Azammi Adabi netted just two minutes later. Faizal notched his second of the match with another penalty corner effort in the 59th minute before Faiz Helmi Jali sealed a 5-1 victory for Tenaga with a 63rd minute field goal. Tenaga coach Nor Azlan Bakar said he was delighted to come through with a landslide win after a tough first leg match. "We had a lot of chances in the first-half and could have killed the match then but I am still happy we got the win," said Nor Azlan. "The boys played simple hockey today (yesterday) and it eventually worked out for us. Terengganu also looked a bit tired which gave us an added advantage. "I am also happy that Faizal Saari did well for us and managed two goals in the game. He showed his worth despite only recently having overcome a knee injury." Meanwhile, the match between Sapura and UniKL, which had to be delayed for 45 minutes due to heavy rain and lightning, also opened to the same tune with both teams' cautious approach seeing them enter the break deadlocked. The match, however, came alive in the 39th minute when Khasif Ali opened the scoring via a penalty corner. Khasif then made it 2-0 for Sapura with a second penalty corner five minutes later. UniKL, who finished in sixth place in the league, pulled one back through a Dedy Ariyadi Jumaidi penalty corner in the 60th minute. Mohd Noor Faez Ibrahim then put UniKL level with another penalty corner five minutes later. Sapura's Joel Samuel Van Huizen, however, put the match beyond reach for UniKL when he scored on the counter attack in the final minute of the match. Sapura, who won the first leg 3-2, advanced to the semi-finals with a 6-4 aggregate win. They will face league champions Kuala Lumpur Hockey Club in the semi-finals on Friday. RESULTS -- TNB Cup q-finals, 2nd leg: Tenaga Nasional 5 Terengganu 1 (Tenaga win 8-3 on aggregate); Sapura 3 UniKL 2 (Sapura win 6-4 on aggregate). Presidents Cup q-finals, 2nd leg: MBI 1 Uniten KPT 1 (MBI win 4-3 on aggregate); Sunday 2030 1 SSTMI 1 (Sunday 2030 win 6-3 on aggregate) TNB's Izad Hakimi Jamaluddin (right) tries to get past Terengganu's Tengku Ahmad Tajuddin Abdul Jalil (centre) in their TNB Cup match at the National Hockey Stadium in Bukit Jalil yesterday. Pic by Muhd Asyraf Sawal