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Firhan hopes to provide killer blow in final

KUALA LUMPUR: Youngster Mohd Firhan Ashaari has a knack for scoring match-winning goals. And he's hoping to do just that for Tenaga Nasional when they face defending champions Kuala Lumpur Hockey Club (KLHC) in the final for the overall title of the Premier League.

The Terengganu-born forward scored a goal seven seconds from time to help Malaysia win the bronze medal in the inaugural AHF Champions Trophy in Ordos, China, two years ago.

In March last year, he scored the equaliser for Tunku Mahkota Ismail Sports School (SSTMI) in their come-from-behind win over Universiti Kuala Lumpur (UniKL) in the final for the Milo Cup in the Malaysian Junior Hockey League (MJHL).

He also scored an 84th-minute winning goal for Terengganu against Penang in the semi-finals of the Sukma (Malaysia Games) in Kuantan last July.

"I never give up hope until the final whistle is blown," said the 19-year-old Firhan, who will also feature in the Junior World Cup in New Delhi in December.

"I've helped teams win matches in dying seconds and I'll continue to do so.

"It's just the way I play ... it all boils down to determination and hard work ... not personal glory.

"I've had my ups and downs in hockey ... it has been a learning process.

"It's great playing for Tenaga and we need to win the final to show our appreciation to our employers, TNB.

"It won't be easy against KLHC as they have several good defenders in Mohd Razie Rahim, Ahmad Kazamirul and Pakistani Muhammad Imran.

"We won't get too many chances but we must capitalise on the ones that come our way.

"KLHC are the favourites but we're determined to win this time ... I believe our performance is on the upward trend and we're peaking at the right time.

"I'll only be happy if we can beat KLHC in the final to lift the overall title," added Firhan, who has scored 10 goals in the MHL.



Leaving it late: Mohd Firhan Ashaari has a knack for scoring match-winning goals.