

Kepong Baru beat arch rivals La Salle

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SMK KEPONG Baru beat arch rivals SMK La Salle Sentul 3-0 in an exciting match that was reminiscent of Pakistan playing India in the MSSKL Sentul zone Hockey tournament at the Tun Razak Hockey Stadium in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

The match promised to be exciting even before the start when players from both teams were involved in heated arguments in the tunnel, which both teams then brought onto the pitch.

Both sides played fast attacking hockey with each attack answered by a counter.

Kepong, who are coached by Johnson Fernandez, looked the more likely to score and had a goal disallowed in the fifth minute when the umpire ruled that the ball was struck from outside the D.

Kepong were not to be denied and got their much deserved goal in the ninth minute when S. Kuvaleesayan slotted a loose ball into the bottom left of La Salle goalkeeper S.Ganesan's goal.

At the restart La Salle lost possession and from the pursuing attack Kepong won a penalty corner that was brilliantly struck by R. Sivaraj to make it 2-0 in Kepong's favour.

La Salle went on the offensive, but had their players fouled on many occasions by a very physical and robust Kepong team who were bent on keeping a clean sheet.

In the second half the match continued where it left off and many of the players were involved in off the ball incidents and Kepong's Gurmeh Singh was yellow carded after a hard challenge on Sangat Singh.

But even with 10 men, Kepong continued to threaten and in the 31st minute captain Jonas Fernandez put the game beyond doubt when he beat four defenders and placed the ball into the bottom left of the goal.

In an earlier game, SMK Raja Ali drew 0-0 against last year's champions SMK Raja Abdullah in a game that was dominated by Raja Abdullah, who fielded virtually an Under-15 side this year.

Raja Abdullah were let down by their finishing after they had countless of chances either saved or shot just wide of the goal.

In the Keramat zone, striker Mohamed Rafeeq led SMK Tmn Setiawangsa to a 4-0 hammering of SMK Wangsa Maju Seksyen 5 at Stadium Kementerian, Bangsar yesterday.

Rafeeq, who was on fire throughout the match netted two out of the four goals to give Setiawangsa their best result of the tournament.

Setiawangsa made a strong start, especially in the first five minutes, with repeated attacks on the Seksyen 5's defence.

Setiawangsa's first goal scoring chance came in the 10th minute when a penalty corner was awarded but good goalkeeping skills kept the game scoreless.

Rafeeq broke the deadlock and netted a powerful shot in the 17th minute to give Setiawangsa the lead.

Mohamed Hamdan doubled their lead two minutes later and the score remained 2-0 at half time.

Rafeeq took Setiawangsa to a 3-0 lead five minutes into the second half with a powerful drive, which whizzed past the Seksyen 5 keeper.

Seksyen 5's swift counter attack in the final minute paid off when they netted in their fourth and final goal to seal the match 4-0.

RESULTS - Sentul Zone Boys' Under-18: SMK Batu Lima 0 SMK Agama KL 1, SMK Raja Ali 0 SMK Raja Abdullah 0, SMK Kepong Baru 3 SMK La Salle Sentul 0, SMK Segambut Jaya 0 SMK Methodist Sentul 2.

Bangsar Zone - SMK Vivekananda 4 SMK Taman Sri Hartamas 0, SMK Victoria Institution 2 SMK Seri Pantai 1, Royal Military College 5 SMK Sungei Besi 0.

Keramat Zone - SMK Seri Ampang 0 Setapak Indah 2, SMK Wangsa Maju Seksyen(1) 3 SMK Padang Tembak 1, SMK St John 2 SMK Wangsa Melawati 0, SMK Tmn Setiawangsa 4 SMK Wangsa Maju Seksyen(5) 0, SMK Sri Dasmesh 0 SMK Wangsa Maju Seksyen(2) 1.

Sentul Zone - Girls' Under-18:

SMKP Jalan Ipoh 2 SMK Batu Lima 1, SMKP Sains Seri Puteri 0 SMK Raja Ali 2, SMK Agama Kuala Lumpur 3 SMK St Mary 0.

Keramat Zone - SMKP Air Panas 4 SMK Taman Melawati 0, SMK Taman Melati 1 SMK Zone R2 0, SMK ERT Setapak 1 SMKP Puteri Titiwangsa 0.

Bangsar Zone - SMK Vivekananda 0 SMK Tasik Selatan 0, SMKP Methodist 0 SMK Petaling 2, SMK Sungei Besi 5 SMK Sri Hartamas 0.

Today - Sentul Zone Boys' Under-18: SMK Raja Abdullah vs SMK Methodist Sentul, SMK Kepong Baru vs SMK Agama Kuala Lumpur.

Bangsar Zone - SMK Tasik Selatan vs SMK Bangsar, SMK Bukit Bandaraya vs SMK Methodist, SMK Bandar Sri Petaling vs SMK Petaling.

Keramat Zone - SMK Tmn Melati vs SMK Setapak Indah, SMK Seri Titiwangsa vs SMK Seri Ampang, SMK Tmn Seri Rampai vs SMK Padang Tembak.

Sentul Zone, Girls' Under-18: SMK Raja Ali vs SMK Agama Kuala Lumpur, SMKP Jalan Ipoh vs SMK Bandar Baru Sentul.

Bangsar Zone - SMK Bandar Tasik Selatan vs SMK Bangsar, SMK Sungei Besi vs SMK Petaling.

(END) Source : New Straits Times