

FOOTBALL

SPA's title to lose

FAM LEAGUE: They come from behind to beat SDM for six-point lead

DEVINDER SINGH
KUALA LUMPUR
devinder@nst.com.my

PUBLIC Service Commission (SPA) are threatening to run away with the FAM League title after opening a six-point lead last Sunday with just six games to go.

SPA, eyeing promotion to the Premier League for the first time, recovered from going a goal down to score twice in the last 15 minutes to beat bottom-side Sinar Dimaja Maisarah (SDM) 2-1 at the Petronas Mini Stadium in Bangi.

Rivals Universiti Teknologi Mara faltered in the chase after being held 0-0 by lowly Melodi Jaya in

Kulai while Penang Water Supply Corporation (PBAPP) had a bye for the round.

Kuantan Port-Shahzan Muda returned to action after byes in the last two rounds to poach a 2-1 win over Army at the Batu Cantonment ground in Kuala Lumpur.

In the all-state affair, Penang recorded a 2-1 win over Malacca as they returned to play a night match at the City Stadium in Georgetown for the first time in a long while.

SPA have won three games in a row in the league since going down 3-1 in Bangi against UiTM on April 22.

The win did not come easy as SPA trailed SDM until the 75th minute before Rery Martinez Ali and Sazali Suwandi scored to give SPA the three points.

SPA coach Nidzam Jamil was more concerned with getting the win rather than how his team played.

"The opponents were leading until the 75th minute before we

finally managed to break through. It was difficult to play against a team who only came here to defend.

"But my players showed great fighting spirit to break them down and the most important thing was that we got the three points," said Nidzam.

SPA now have the luxury on focusing exclusively on the FAM League after their involvement in the Kuala Lumpur FA league and cup competitions came to an end on May 9 following a 2-0 defeat to Army in the FA Cup.

"Half the team were playing with injuries in the FA Cup and I had to rest the other half.

"After going out of the cup, we can now focus fully on the FAM League.

"We play Malacca away next week (Sunday) and we hope we can win. As long as the players stay fully concentrated and play to their full capacity, I'm sure we can finish top.

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SPA coach

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A win over Malacca will consolidate SPA's position at the top but PBAPP and Shahzan, who both have a game in hand, will be hoping for the leaders to slip up this weekend.

PBAPP welcome Army to the City Stadium while Shahzan host Penang in Temerloh. UiTM have the weekend off.

RESULTS

ARMY	1	2	SHAHZAN
MELODIJAYA	0	0	UITM
SPA	2	1	SINARDIMAJA
PENANG	2	1	MALACCA

P W D L F A PT

SPA	10	8	1	1	19	7	25
UITM	10	5	4	1	14	6	19
PBAPP	9	5	3	1	18	8	18
SHAHZAN	9	6	0	3	17	11	18
PENANG	10	5	0	5	15	12	15
ARMY	10	2	4	4	15	11	10
MALACCA	10	3	1	6	10	15	10
MELODI JAYA	10	1	3	6	8	24	6
SDM	10	0	2	8	6	28	2

FIXTURES

SUNDAY

MALACCA	v	SPA
(Hang Tuah Stadium)		
PBAPP	v	ARMY
(City Stadium)		
SINARDIMAJA	v	MELODI JAYA
(Batu Kawan Stadium)		
SHAHZAN MUDA	v	PENANG
(Temerloh Stadium, 8.45pm)		
Matches at 4.45pm, unless stated		



Mohd Zulkifli Affendi (right) played in SPA's 2-1 win against SDM at the Petronas Mini Stadium in Bangi last Sunday.