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# Gan-ning for more glory

## Footballer aiming to make an impact with current side in Premier League

**K**L SURUHANJAYA Perkhidmatan Awam (SPA) rookie Gan Jay Han has fond memories of his stint in junior football tournaments in Subang Jaya.

The former SK Seafield pupil said it was a wonderful experience playing at grassroots level.

Besides community-based programmes, the 20-year-old footballer also took part in various school and club-based tournaments.

He developed his skills with the Subang Jaya Community Youth Football League (SJCYFL) and the Brazilian Football Club in Subang Jaya before earning his place in the Selangor junior line-up.

Despite settling as runner-up with the SMK Seafield side in the Under-18 contest at the Selangor Schools Sports Council (MSSS) Petaling Perdana district football competition in 2010, Jay Han said they were proud to achieve a breakthrough and set a benchmark for current and future students to improve on their achievements.

Back then, their opponents SMK Seksyen 19 from Shah Alam, struck a late winner for a narrow 1-0 win at the end of the 25-minute second half.

"I contributed four goals in the campaign but it was not about personal glory. We really gelled well and forged exceptional teamwork. The teachers and coaches were also very supportive. Looking back, it was all worth it when we trained under the hot afternoon sun.

"We want to inspire the school's current and future teams to go up better than us. Hopefully, they can assemble a stronger team to be considered as serious contenders and challenge for the top position at the district meet," he added.

Last year, Jay Han donned the

national Under-19 stripes at the Hassanal Bolkiah Trophy tournament in Brunei and a triangular tournament in Singapore.

The youngster said it has always been an uplifting feeling to perform national duties and to put on the national playing kit with the national flag positioned close to his heart on the left corner of the jersey.

"The rare privilege of wearing the national jersey comes with huge responsibilities. Although we are only a national junior side, we are carrying the nation's hopes on our shoulders. When we get on the pitch, it is more than a football match. It is about playing with pride and giving our best to protect the dignity of our beloved country. It has not been easy to go up against junior teams in the

South-East Asia region," he added.

The Inti College student chalked up a fruitful season with his usual role as a rightback defence and occasionally on the right wing for Harimau Muda B squad in the previous season.

However, Harimau Muda B cannot retain his services because he is above the age of 19.

This year, Jay Han is the newest and the youngest inclusion to KL SPA in the Malaysia Premier League.

KL SPA earned promotion from the FAM League to join the fray in the Premier League.

Jay Han aims to make an impact with his current side in matching other sides in the Premier League.

The two other contests in the domestic competitions are FA Cup

and Malaysia Cup.

Recently, Jay Han was named in the KL SPA starting eleven for a 4-2 win over Perlis in their second league match.

However, he picked up a right knee injury and will have to go through a six-week rehabilitation process.

For the new season, Jay Han is coping with a hectic schedule attending two separate training sessions in the morning and evening as well as classes in between.

"It is tough and tiring. I am willing to sacrifice to fulfil my potential. I know that I have not reached my best yet.

"I need to improve on my strength and endurance to become a better footballer," said Jay Han.



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