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SSTMI edge UniKL to title

TENGGU Mahkota Ismail Sports School (SSTMI) had to use all nine lives to beat UniKL Young Guns 1-0 for their third consecutive Milo Cup title at the National Stadium in Bukit Jalil yesterday.

SSTMI dominated play, but UniKL were awarded nine penalty corners and wasted all as goalkeeper Ridzwan Azmi was in his element.

It was a dream start for SSTMI as they pushed hard and won a fifth minute penalty corner and their skipper Shahril Saabah scored his ninth goal of the tournament with a low flick to the right.

The crowd, about 3,000, were treated to more action in the remaining minutes of the first half, as SSTMI kept up the pressure but could not increase the lead.

UniKL muffed four penalty corners, and went into the dressing room to plan for a comeback, as failure would see them fall for the third consecutive time to SSTMI in the Milo Cup final.

The second half was no different, as SSTMI were the better side, while Young Guns keep firing blanks even after presented with numerous penalty corners.

And during the seventh UniKL penalty corner in the 59th minute, SSTMI goalkeeper Ridzwan Azmi was injured after gallantly diving to make a save to keep a clean slate.

Ridzwan, named Best Goalkeeper of the tournament, was again in his element as he parried away UniKL's ninth penalty corner in the 66th minute.

"It was a bruising final as my players gave their all and fought for every



Tengku Mahkota Ismail Sports School players celebrate after winning the final against UniKL Young Guns yesterday. Pic by Saifullizan Tamadi



ball. It is also a historic moment for the school, as we celebrate our second double in a row, and third consecutive Milo Cup title," said SSTMI coach Wan Roslan Wan Rahman.

SSTMI received RM25,000, while UniKL RM15,000.

In the bronze battle, Anderson of Ipoh beat Tengku Mahkota Ismail Sports School Juniors on a golden goal after a 2-2 draw at the end of regulation time.

The Anderson goals were scored by Soffian Kamaruddin (8th) and N.

Kaatigan (69th) while the SSTMI Juniors goals were scored by Azhad Akmal (33rd) and Danial Asyraf (56th).

The Anderson hero of the night turned out to be Abdul Rauf who scored in the 77th minute of extra-time to hand his side the bronze as well as RM12,000. SSTMI juniors received RM10,000 for finishing fourth.

RESULTS — Final: Tengku Mahkota Ismail Sports School 1 UniKL Young Guns 0; **3rd-4th:** Anderson 2 Tengku Mahkota Ismail Sports School Juniors 2 (Anderson win on sudden-death goal).

Best Player of the Tournament: Haziq Samsul — UniKL (RM1,500); **Top Scorer:** Syafiq Zulzairin (UniKL, 14 goals) (RM1,500); **Best Goalkeeper:** Ridzwan Azmi — SSTMI (RM1,500); **Best player of the Final:** Shahril Saabah — SSTMI (RM1,500); **Fairplay:** Sekolah Tuanku Abdul Rahman, Ipoh (RM4,000). **By Jugzet Singh**