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KLHC on right track

HAVING secured four points from their opening two matches, KL Hockey Club are on the right track in their title defence of the Malaysian Hockey League.

And their longest serving player, Chua Boon Huat (*pic*) feels the team has all the right ingredients to cap another successful season in the MHL despite the fact they are no longer the favourites.

"When there was an exodus of players before the season began, many thought it was curtains for KLHGC. But we took all this in our stride and vowed to do better. The management secured six foreign players and made the right choices," said Chua.

"And they are great signings as they are experienced and fitted into our system very well. They adapted right from the first match and I am happy playing alongside them."

The national players who left KLHC for Terengganu are Mohd Shahrudin Nabil, Tengku Ahmad Tajuddin, Azlan Misron, Ismail Abu, Mohd Ameerullah Aziz and Fitri Saari.

They signed six foreigners, including Pakistan national team skipper Muhammad Imran, who scored five goals in the Azlan Shah Cup last week. The others are the evergreen Waseem Ahmad, Fareed Ahmad, Muhammad Umar Bhutta and Akhtar Ali.

In addition they also signed Australian international Tim Deavin.

KLHC defeated UniKL 5-0 in the opening match and drew 3-3 against Tenaga Nasional Berhad on Sunday. This weekend, they take on table toppers Maybank on Friday before playing visiting Nur Insafi Warriors.

"Maybank have had a great start and the two wins have boosted their confidence. And their four Pakistani imports have also fitted in well. So it's going to be difficult for us on Friday," added Chua who has played for the club since 2003 when they were known as Ernst and Young.

"We need to be patient in the match and not give them room to control the midfield as Shafqat Rasool and Shakeel Abbasi can create havoc if given a free hand." — *By Satwant Singh*

