

NS Wanderers won't take Angels lightly

NEGRI Sembilan Wanderers manager Fahmi Jalil has assured fans that his team will pull no punches in their National Inter-Club Championship (NICC) final against Serdang Angels at Universiti Putra Malaysia, Serdang this Saturday.

Despite having clinched qualification to the Super League by virtue of reaching the final, Fahmi said the fallen giants are hungry for success and eager to lift their first 15s trophy after a barren spell in the format over the past two years.

"We are happy to have success-

fully achieved one of our goals this year, which is to regain our status as a Super League club," said Fahmi.

"The NICC may be the second-tier after the Super League, but nonetheless, we will still be taking the final seriously.

"It is the 30th anniversary for the Wanderers and 60th for the Negri Sembilan Rugby Union this year and we had set out to win both the NICC and Super League titles to celebrate both occasions.

"We will not be resting players and you can expect us to come out firing

this Saturday."

Wanderers have come to form nicely, after having beaten TLDM Orca 22-10 in the semi-finals and Kajang RC 36-7 in the quarter-finals last week.

Angels, the Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) elite team, however, will be no pushovers as they currently feature their strongest side in recent years after they signed numerous players from Tunku Mahkota Ismail Sports School (TMISS) at the end of last year.

The players had completed their studies at TMISS and have been en-

rolled for tertiary education at UPM, which is the Malaysian Universities Sports Excellence Centre for rugby.

Fahmi added that a tight game will be necessary to beat the pacey Angels, who beat TMISS 19-16 in the semi-finals on their home ground.

"There is no doubt they are a quality outfit as more than half their side are from TMISS and are also national players.

"They are young, fast and know how to play the game. They will also have home ground advantage.

"We have the experience and the size, so we aim to keep the ball as much as we can and keep things tight so they cannot use their strengths.

"It will be a close match where both teams have a chance to win but we are confident."

TMISS will play Kajang RC in the playoff match from which the winners will earn the final ticket to the Super League this year as only the top three from the NICC gain promotion.

The match will also be played on Saturday. **By Fadhli Ishak**