

# KLHC reserve defender Kaza surprised to get national call-up

**KUALA LUMPUR:** When Ahmad Kazamirul Nasruddin opted out of the national hockey team in 2010, to pursue a degree in Human Resource from Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), he thought that was the end of his international career.

So, the 25-year-old KL Hockey Club (KLHC) defender was pleasantly surprised when he was recalled to the national team by new coach Paul Revington on Monday.

The Kuantan-born player, who will be graduating from UPM next month, admitted to being frustrated when he wasn't recalled last year.

"I played well for my club KLHC in the MHL (Malaysia Hockey League) and I was expecting a call-up. But it never came," said the player fondly known as Kaza.

"I didn't expect to be recalled this time either because KLHC had two experienced defenders in Mohd Razie (Abdul Rahim) and Pakistan's Muhammad Imran.

"I was more off a reserve defender and did not score a single goal from penalty corner drag flicks.

"But it's not going to be easy for me to find a place in the final squad as there are other experienced

defenders in the training squad, like Razie, Mohd Amin Rahim, Azlan Misron, Faiz Helmi Jali and Baljit Singh.

"I really want to thank national coach Paul (Revington) for having faith in me."

Kazamirul made his international debut for Malaysia in the World Cup qualifier in Invercargill, New Zealand, in 2009 and has nine international caps thus far.

Kazamirul, who also featured in the 2009 Junior World Cup in Johor Baru, is also delighted to be playing in his third consecutive MHL final.

"Being recalled to national training has motivated me to give my best in the final (against Tenaga Nasional) and win a third straight overall title," he said.

Kazamirul said that his focus now was to help KLHC beat Tenaga and retain the overall title.

He admitted that it won't be a walk in the park against Tenaga, who held them to a 3-3 draw in a Charity Shield match in March.

"They also gave us a good fight in the second round match before losing 4-2. So, we are expecting another tough time in the final on Sunday," said Kazamirul.



**Raring to go:** Ahmad Kazamirul Nasruddin's immediate aim is to help KLHC overcome Tenaga Nasional and retain the MHL overall title.