

**TUNKU** Mahkota Ismail Sports School (SSTMI) are expecting their Super League semi-final clash with Serdang Angels at Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) in Bangi today to be a finely balanced encounter.

SSTMI, champions in 2014, made an uncharacteristic slow start to the season and lost twice in the group stages but finished strongly to top Group B ahead of Negri Sembilan Wanderers on score difference.

Coach Saizul Hafifi Md Noor believes his charges, who came from behind to beat UiTM Lions 19-10 in the last eight, are ready to face Angels in a battle of pace against experience.

The other semi-final will see de-



## SSTMI expect a cagey affair

fending champions Keris Conlay playing Wanderers.

"The group competition was quite tough for us as we had not competed in any tournaments prior to the Super League while many of the other teams did," said Hafifi.

"But we have improved a lot since losing to Kuala Lumpur City Hall (second game) and Politeknik Malaysia (fourth game) and are ready for this match.

"We have already worked out what went wrong in those games.

"This semi-final will be a battle between brothers as many of our players joined Angels once they completed their studies here (SSTMI)."

Angels, who are Universiti Putra Malaysia's competitive team, had been provisionally suspended earlier this year for playing in Thailand without sanctioning from the national body.

They missed their opening group game against Conlay due to the ban but once it was lifted, won

all their remaining matches to come in second in Group A behind Conlay.

They defeated DBKL 14-10 in the quarter-finals.

Conlay, who also won in 2013, are the outright favourites for a third title in four years after drubbing Politeknik Malaysia 36-0 in the quarter-finals but will have to be wary against a rejuvenated Wanderers side hungry for a first Super League victory since 2010.

Wanderers, who downed Iskandar Raiders 34-23 in the last eight, were relegated from the Super League last year but made an immediate return by finishing second in the National Inter-Club Championships in December. **By Fadhli Ishak**