



GOOD LUCK...(seated L-R) Beatrice, Jelius, Malianah, Junaidi and Julia together with members of the State Futsal Women's team in Kota Kinabalu, yesterday.

Women's futsal team hope to improve position

By Arfandi Jaafar

KOTA KINABALU: The state women's futsal team hoped to improve their standings when they take on Group A rivals, Selangor MBPJ FC and Kedah in the Felda/FAM National Women's Futsal League 2011/2012 at Shah Alam, this weekend.

Head coach, Jelius Ating said after winning one of their first two matches at the start of the competition last month, the team hoped their outing this weekend would yield back-to-back victories, to help strengthen their place in the standings.

He said Sabah will meet Selangor MBPJ FC at 9am on Saturday (Jan 14), while the match against Kedah will be at 2pm the following day.

Jelius said in the team's earlier two matches, Sabah lost 0-2 to defending champions Selangor before going on to win 2-0 against Perlis.

He said with only one win in hand the team must take advantage of every opportunity to accumulate as many points possible.

"We don't know where exactly we are in the standings...the tournament organiser has not given us the official release yet.

"If we can register wins in the matches this weekend, it would help to boost our position of making it to the next round. That is what we hope for," said Jelius when met at the team's training session at Borneo Sports Arena in Kolombong here yesterday.

On hand to meet the team

yesterday before their departure at 7am today was Sabah FA Women's Unit Committee Chairman, Datin Malianah Ugau.

Also present was Sabah FA Futsal and Beach Soccer Committee technical officer, Junaidi Ahmad Fauzi, team manager, Julia Sukaron and assistant coach, Beatrice Yaw.

Meanwhile, Sabah's matches in the coming two weeks will be against Johor SAJ/Kencana and Selangor PKNS FC on January 28 and 29 respectively in Alor Setar, Kedah. They will conclude their group fixture against KL Felda United FC on February 25 in Shah Alam.

"Our aim is to win as many matches as we can to, hopefully, reach the final in April. But the competition is tough so we are taking it one match at a time," said Jelius.

Sabah players travelling to Shah Alam this weekend include Asma binti Junaidi, Attica Baptis Mairon, Cynthia Ami, Eslilah Esar, Lovelytha Jelus and Marcella Ramli.

The others are Marcia Munchin, Maznah Ali, Marisa Juanis, Pedrolia Martin, Rozeinie Dusilah and Petronella Douny.

The state is also represented by Sabah UMS FC in the same tournament. UMS FC are competing in the Group B challenge with the likes of PDRM, Terengganu Permaisuri FC, UiTM FC and Sarawak DBKU.

In the earlier fixtures they beat KL Putra Ria 9-2 and won 7-1 against Armed Forces.