

AUGUST 8

2025-2026 SUPER LEAGUE CAST

COMPILED by T. AVINESHWARAN

JOHOR DARUL TA'ZIM (JDT)

Three-time quadruple champions - Charity Shield, Super League, FA Cup and Malaysia Cup.



Coach: Xisco Munoz
Captain: Matthew Davies
Star player: Arif Aiman Hanapi
Young star: Aysar Hadi Sapri

THE defending champions are clearly the undisputed favourites to win the league title for the 12th consecutive time. Under the tutelage of new coach Xisco Munoz, the Southern Tigers are blessed with the best depth in the nation, powered by a phenom named Arif Aiman Hanapi, who only gets better every season. It would take a gargantuan effort to topple them and JDT will continue stamping their mark as the giants of Malaysian football.

SELANGOR

Super League and FA Cup runners-up



Coach: Katsuhito Kinoshi
Captain: Faisal Halim
Star player: Zach Clough
Young star: Aliff Izwan Yuslan

THE Red Giants would want to close the gap with JDT, and have signed some strong names to make that happen. With Faisal Halim donning the captaincy, a sign of resilience after his harrowing acid attack episode last year, and Zach Clough being the fulcrum in midfield, the Klang Valley side would want to satiate their glory-seeking fans by producing top performances with the help of Katsuhito Kinoshi.

SABAH

Third place in the Super League



Coach: Alto Linus
Captain: Dominic Tan
Star player: Stuart Wilkin
Young star: Fergus Tierney

THE bulk of team remain, which is good news for the Rhinos. Led by the charismatic Dominic Tan in defence and the vivacious Stuart Wilkin in midfield, they have added some youth in attack by signing Fergus Tierney. They have a squad capable of challenging for the second spot and after three consecutive seasons of third, they would want to go one up this season.

KUCHING CITY

Fourth place in the Super League



Coach: Aidil Sharin
Captain: James Okwuosa
Star player: Ramadhan Saifullah
Young star: Zharmien Ashraf Ismail

THE silent killers created a buzz last season after finishing fourth. Again, they are set to be the talk of the town. The Cats have retained most of their key men and added more bite in attack with the signing of Cameroonian striker Ronald Ngah. James Okwuosa will be the hardman at the back, tasked with leading the boys to another strong outing this season. Another top-four finish is on the cards.

TERENGGANU

Fifth place in the Super League



Coach: Badrul Afzan Razali
Captain: Shahrul Nizam Ros Hasni
Star player: Akhyar Rashid
Young star: Ubaidullah Shamsul Fazli

THE City Boys are known for their strong-knit dressing room but there are changes this season with the arrival of new coach Risto Vidakovic and three new loan signings from JDT - Safawi Rasid, Syamer Kutty Abba and Manuel Hidalgo. But with Giancarlo Gallifuoco, a popular figure in the city and club, harmony would surely be intact and now they can push for a much better finish, and some even reckon they could fight for the second spot.

The Class of 13

Arif Aiman Hanapi

Faisal Halim

Dominic Tan

Giancarlo Gallifuoco

T. Saravanan

Dylan Wenzel-Halls

With just six imports and a bevy of exciting local talents, the Turtles are hopeful of doing better than fifth place. Despite not being able to keep Safawi Rasid, who was a potent goalscoring playmaker, they still have Akhyar Rashid, who remains an elite winger in the league. Also with Ubaidullah Shamsul Fazli maturing as a defender, one can expect Badrul Afzan Razali to put up a stronger outing.

KUALA LUMPUR

Sixth place in the Super League



Coach: Risto Vidakovic
Captain: Paulo Josue
Star player: Giancarlo Gallifuoco
Young star: Haqimi Azim Rosli

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POLICE

Ninth place in the Super League



Coach: Eddy Gapil
Captain: Irfan Fazail
Star player: Fadi Awad
Young star: Nor Hakeem Hamidun

EVERY season, the Cops lose stars but somehow find a way to make themselves competitive in the league. This season, they have lost strikers Ifedayo Olusegun and Shahrel Fikri Md Fauzi, but made sure to keep their main core, players essential to their tactical organisation. Fadi Awad staying on is a boost and they have included Irfan Fazail, who will add the firepower. They will be a plucky side for any team and expect them to finish above the relegation zone.

PENANG

Tenth in the Super League



Coach: Wan Rohaimi Wan Ismail
Captain: Stefano Brundo
Star player: Dylan Wenzel-Halls
Young star: Alif Ikmalrizal Anuar

THE Panthers have built a squad that want to finish above mid-table. But what excites fans are their speed demons on the flanks. Securing the likes of Dylan Wenzel-Halls and Danilo Sipovac, they boast the fastest flankers in the league and would hope their pace would tear defences and help attackers like Bruno Suzuki and Tchetché Kipre score goals. They have the tightest budget in the league but in terms of harmony, they are strong and the man management and tactical ingenuity of Wan Rohaimi Wan Ismail would surely help them to finish way better than last season.

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KELANTAN

Thirteenth in the Super League



Coach: E. Elavarasan
Captain: Ifedayo Olusegun
Star player: Nor Azam Azih
Young star: M. Rakesh

KELANTAN football has always been a hotbed of controversy in recent years, no thanks to financial mismanagement but this Super League, they are serious in reigniting love for the game through the leadership of their president Tan Sri Annuar Musa. Led by E. Elavarasan, they have some exciting local talents like winger T. Saravanan, fullback Azwan Aripin and goalkeeper Azfar Arif and reputable foreign players like striker Ifedayo Olusegun, winger Prince Aggreh and Sierra Leone's defensive brothers - Abdul and Yusuf Sesay. Target would be mid-table but avoiding relegation would be a success.

MELAKA

A1 Semi-Pro League champion



Coach: K. Devan
Captain: Nasir Basharudin
Star player: Irfan Zakaria
Young star: Umar Hakeem Suhar Rezwan

NEWLY promoted and led by an experienced tactician known for his well-calculated organisation. K. Devan would aim for the team to stay in the league and has a well-balanced team. Signing centreback Irfan Zakaria was a masterstroke and adding Shahrel Fikri Md Fauzi upfront does give the team some bite. Taking several JDT youngsters like wingback Umar Hakeem Suhar Rezwan and goalkeeper Haziq Aiman also adds some excitement. They also have four new Brazilian signings that would give the Samba feel to the team.

IMMIGRATION

A1 Semi-Pro League runners-up



Coach: Yusri Che Lah
Captain: Rizal Ghazali
Star player: Nik Shareef Haseefy
Young star: Aiman Yusni

DEBUTANTS Immigration are the last team to start pre-season and their recruitment drive is ongoing though the league is starting soon. Yusri Che Lah has moved from Ipoh to Kedah for his new coaching gig and brought his former Perak players like winger Nur Azfar Fikri and wingback Aiman Yusni to bolster their challenge in their first season in the league. Fullback Rizal Ghazali adds experience to the team and Yusri has brought in Terengganu winger Nik Shareef Haseefy on loan to add some creativity and spark in attack. They may struggle in their first season but Yusri wants to defy the odds.

BRUNEI

Returning to the Super League after 16 years



Coach: Jamie McAllister
Captain: Azwan Ali Rahman
Star player: Ramadhan Sananta
Young star: Syafiq Safiuddin

After 16 years, Brunei return to the Malaysian League and the euphoria is growing. Led by Englishman Jamie McAllister, the league will be seeing new Brunei talents especially Syafiq Safiuddin, a wingback cum winger. Then there is Syafiq Ahmad, who many Malaysian fans are hopeful could recapture his old form and return to the national team. But the best piece of business was signing Indonesian striker Ramadhan Sananta, who is one of the most exciting attackers in the region. They have a decent squad capable of finishing mid-table.

NEGRI SEMBILAN

Twelfth in the Super League



Coach: Nidzam Jamil
Captain: Ahmad Khuzaimi Piee
Star player: Takumi Sasaki
Young star: Luqman Hakim Shamsudin

UNDER the charismatic Nidzam Jamil, the Deer are serious in their bid to push for a stronger finish this season. What makes them stronger this season is the addition of top local talents and strong foreign personnel. Luqman Hakim Shamsudin will have a taste of the Malaysian League for the first time and they have added goalkeeper Azri Ghani and centreback Ahmad Khuzaimi Piee will add stability at the back. With Takumi Sasaki running the midfield, and pace in the flanks provided by Jovan Motika and A. Selvan, Negri will be the team to watch.