

MODEST KWAI LAM

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KUALA LUMPUR coach Chow Kwai Lam was an elusive man last night.

While the team was rejoicing their win in the Malaysia Cup final, Kwai Lam remained at the bench with technical adviser S. Subramaniam.

Immediately after the prize giving ceremony, reporters and television crew personnel made a beeline for him trying for an interview.

Kwai Lam refused and asked the team manager, Datuk Seri Raja Aziz Raja Salim to be interviewed instead. He then slipped away to the dressing room.

When met at the dressing room, Kwai Lam was with just three people who were helping make the drinks. He was sitting in a corner.

Asked why was he elusive, he replied: "What is there for me to say. Everything was seen on the field. The players did a great job to silence the critics.

"I rather the players speak because they worked very hard for what they have achieved tonight. It is a rare moment for Kuala Lumpur FA and I am just happy for them."

When coaxed further, Kwai lam opened up.

"I knew we would win by two goals, but we won by three. It's a bonus.

"Above all, we achieved a Grand Slam which I feel will not be repeated by another team in the near future.

"We did our talking on the field and I am glad it paid off handsomely."

Kwai Lam said he had taken Kedah lightly.

"It was a just a case of using the right tactics. We knew Kedah will be coming at us like wounded Tigers. But before they did that, we attacked from all angles and before they knew what hit them, we were already on top.

"Kedah tried hard, but it was not enough. There was a lot of talk about Kedah's defence being the best in the country, but tonight we proved that we can crack them.

"Kedah drew confidence from the fact that they had held us to a 1-1 draw in the preliminary round. But what they missed out was the fact that we were on top of them for the 90 minutes.

"Tonight we rose to the occasion when it mattered most and made it count.

"We have come under some heavy criticisms despite our achievement last year and our victory clearly underlines that we are the best around."

After the interview, Kwai Lam finally decided to open his heart to the other Pressmen who were waiting outside.



ONE FOR THE ALBUM: KLFA president Datul Elyas (with headgear) with the players and supporters

KL'S GRAND SLAM

THE number of banners displayed by the Kuala Lumpur fans could be counted. But one aptly described Kuala Lumpur — the soccer giants of Malaysia.

Indeed, they are the giants of Malaysian soccer because what they completed last night was the Grand Slam — winning the Malaysia Cup after having opened the season with the Charity Shield and midway winning the League Cup.

To top the three prized trophies, KL won the Golden Boot (Fandi Ahmad) and Man-of-the match (Subadron Aziz) award.

Further to underline their supremacy, they won the Malaysia Cup for the second consecutive year.

The only trophy which slipped them is the Fairplay trophy which Singapore won.

KLFA president Datuk Elyas Omar said he would have been equal-

ly happy if KL had just won the Malaysia Cup because defending the title was even more difficult than winning it for the first time.

"But what the team achieved by bagging every trophy in sight except the Fairplay is indeed a bonus and a rare achievement."

"It is a moment of history. I am sure it is going to be very difficult for any other team to emulate us."