Tropical Titans score 3rd hat-trick in eleventh CBL leg

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WITH an impregnable lead, Tropical Titans recorded a reverberating triple hat-trick in the inaugural Champions Boat League (CBL) on Saturday as they finished first in the penultimate leg held in Kallada river.

The star team met the expectations of the crowd by outshining all eight competitors yet again by clocking at 3:49.91 in the final race, followed by Raging Rowers at 3:49.95 and Mighty Oars at 3:52.00. The team also became the ‘Nerolac Excel Fastest Team of the Day’ with the best timing in the final race.

With 11 of the 12 rounds being completed in the league, Tropical Titans lead the table with 158 points, followed by Raging Rowers (78 points) and Mighty Oars and Coast Dominators sharing the third place with 69 points. As two teams have come third, the fourth place will lie vacant as per the CBL rule. Tropical Titans, owned by Pallathuruthy Sports Club, scored their first hat-trick in the third round at Karuvatta on September 14 and the second one in the eighth leg at Kainakary on October 26. The only leg they lost was in Kochi on October 5, when Coast Dominators came a surprise first along Marine Drive in downtown Ernakulam.

Kerala Tourism-organised CBL is a three-month championship with 12 rounds held on weekends coinciding with traditional water festivals. The boat league, which began with the Nehru Trophy Boat Race on August 31, will conclude with the President’s Trophy Boat Race in Kollam on November 23.

With a prize money of ₹5.9 crore, the CBL is the fourth biggest sports league in India. The first three winners of each CBL match will get ₹5 lakh, ₹3 lakh and ₹1 lakh respectively. All participants are entitled to a bonus prize of ₹4 lakh per match.

The Kallada leg, which also hosted races for smaller ‘veppu’ and ‘uttukuthi’ boats, was inaugurated by Fisheries Minister J Mercykutty Amma. Kunnamthur MLA Kvoor Kunjumon presided over the function.