



Al Shorta's Greatest Moments - Number 10:

Al Shorta stay unbeaten in league for two straight years (1979-81)



The 1979-80 Iraqi National League title went to Al Shorta who won fourteen, drew seven and lost just one of their 22 games that campaign. Their one loss was in round 2 of the league against Al Talaba, meaning that the Police went 20 games unbeaten on their way to winning the league.

They entered the 1980-81 season with their unbeaten run still intact, and sensationally managed to go the whole 1980-81 league season unbeaten. The season was eleven games long, which extended Al Shorta's unbeaten run to 31 games. Al Shorta ended the 1980-81 season as runners-up, but in very controversial fashion.

Al Shorta and Al Talaba had equal points and goal difference to each other, so everyone expected that the title would be decided on goals scored, as it always had been and always

would be in the future. Al Shorta had scored two more goals than Al Talaba over the course of the season, and therefore they expected to be handed the title for the second consecutive season. But the Iraqi Football Association decided to give Al Talaba their first ever league title instead on the basis that they won two more games than Al Shorta. It was a bizarre decision considering that this rule had never been used before and was never used again, and common opinion is that the title was robbed from Al Shorta this season and that they should have retained their title.

Al Shorta lost the first game of the 1981-82 season, which saw the fantastic unbeaten run ended at 31 games. The run spanned two entire years, from late-1979 to late-1981, and at the time it was the longest unbeaten run from any Iraqi club in history. It has since been bettered by the Al Zawraa side of 1993-94 who went 39 games without defeat, but nonetheless, going two entire years without defeat is an astonishing achievement that certainly ranks among the club's best and deserves immense praise.

Here are the results of all 31 games (as well the two losses that came before and after the run respectively):

Match of run	Opponent	Result
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N/A (round 2 of 1979-80 season)	Al Talaba	0-2 loss
1	Al Tijara	2-0 win
2	Al Amana (now Amanat Baghdad)	0-0 draw
3	Al Tayaran (now Al Quwa Al Jawiya)	1-0 win
4	Salahaddin	1-0 win
5	Al Sinaah	4-0 win
6	Al Jaish	5-0 win
7	Al Bahri	4-0 win
8	Al Shabab	1-1 draw
9	Al Minaa	2-2 draw
10	Al Zawraa	2-1 win
11	Al Talaba	3-2 win
12	Al Tijara	2-0 win
13	Al Amana (now Amanat Baghdad)	1-1 draw
14	Al Tayaran (now Al Quwa Al Jawiya)	0-0 draw
15	Salahaddin	2-0 win
16	Al Sinaah	0-0 draw
17	Al Jaish	3-2 win
18	Al Bahri	2-1 win
19	Al Shabab	2-1 win
20	Al Minaa	3-1 win
21 (round 1 of 1980-81 season)	Al Adhamiya	4-0 win
22	Al Jaish	1-1 draw
23	Salahaddin	1-1 draw
24	Al Minaa	3-0 win

25	Al Sinaah	1-1 draw
26	Al Talaba	2-1 win
27	Al Amana (now Amanat Baghdad)	3-1 win
28	Al Shabab	1-0 win
29	Al Tijara	1-1 draw
30	Al Tayaran (now Al Quwa Al Jawiya)	1-1 draw
31	Al Zawraa	3-0 win
N/A (round 1 of 1981-82 season)	Al Sinaah	0-3 loss

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