



Al Shorta's Greatest Players - Number 17: Hussein Kareem



Hussein Kareem joined Al Shorta in 2009 from Erbil ahead of their 2009-10 campaign and his partnership with fellow striker Younes Shakor terrorised defences during that season as Al Shorta almost reached the semi-finals of the competition.

Hussein scored the second-most goals in the Iraqi Premier League that season, bagging 21 goals in total. The pick of the bunch was a screamer he scored against Al Minaa from almost 30 yards out. He also scored to make it 2-0 to Al Shorta in the final game of the elite stage against Al Najaf (a 2-0 win would have been enough for the Police to qualify for the semi-finals) but Al Shorta threw away their lead to draw 2-2 and were knocked out of the competition.

After leaving for Duhok and then enjoying a second spell at Al Najaf, Hussein returned to Al Shorta in the 2012-13 season and bagged his first goal of his second spell against Al Minaa in a 4-1 rout. Further goals came against Naft Al Junoob, Karbalaa, Kirkuk and Al Masafi before the striker made history. He scored the only goal in the 2013 Baghdad Cup final against Al Zawraa at Al Shaab Stadium to win Al Shorta the cup for the third time in what was their first trophy for ten long years.

He then scored the winning goal in a 3-2 win against Karbalaa in the league (Al Shorta were 2-0 down with 20 minutes remaining) and confirmed his place on Al Shorta's legends list by scoring the opening goal in the historic 3-0 victory over Al Talaba on the final day of the season which secured the league title and, ultimately, the double. Hussein left for Al Zawraa the following season but rejoined Al Shorta midway through the 2015-16 season, to the delight of the Al Shorta faithful.

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