



Al Shorta's Greatest Players - Number 20:

Mafeed Assem



Mafeed Assem was a clinical forward who was the joint top scorer of the 1996 Iraqi Elite Cup, but his most important goal for Al Shorta certainly came on the final day of the 1997-98 season. Al Shorta were 2-1 down to Al Sulaikh with six minutes of normal time left, and Al Shorta needed to score two more goals in that time to keep alive their hopes of overtaking Al Quwa Al Jawiya at the top of the table and winning the league.

Mafeed Assem was the man who popped up with the first goal when the forward poked the ball just over the line from close range during a goalmouth scramble. That gave Al Shorta the platform and the confidence to go on and get another, which they duly did through Mahmoud Majeed's injury-time penalty to win their seventh league title.

That season, Mafeed scored nine goals in the league, but in the 1999-2000 season he much improved on that, bagging a brilliant 25 goals for Al Shorta which would have won him the Golden Boot in many seasons but was only enough for the Bronze Boot in that particular season.

Mafeed Assem also played for Al Jaish, Al Quwa Al Jawiya and Al Zawraa in his career but it was his spell with Al Shorta that he will be remembered best for - the clinical forward left Al Shorta in 2003 before retiring in 2005 at the age of just 29 after being hampered by injuries. He scored 64 goals for all the Iraq teams put together (junior, youth, Olympic and first teams) and is now a youth coach at Al Shorta.

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