



Al Shorta's Greatest Moments - Number 23: **Al Shorta play 1000th Premier League game (2011)**



The first team to play 100 games in the Iraqi Premier League since its foundation in 1974 was Al Shorta, when they played against Al Tayaran (now Al Quwa Al Jawiya) on 7 January 1980 and drew 0-0. They then became the first team to play 200 games when they drew 1-1 with Al Sinaah in the 1984-85 season.

25 November 1988 saw Al Shorta become the first team to play 300 matches when they defeated Al Rasheed by one goal to nil, and Al Shorta were the second to hit 400 games when they lost 1-0 to Samarra on 29 May 1992. Al Shorta hit another landmark on 31 January 1994 when they became the second Iraqi club to play 500 games with a 4-1 thrashing of Erbil.

Finally, on 3 November 2011, Al Shorta played their 1000th game in the Iraqi Premier League, since 1974. It was the first round of the 2011-12 Iraqi Premier League and the game was against Al Sinaah at Al Sinaah Stadium; it ended goalless. This game is also notable as it saw a 20 year-old Amjad Kalaf set a new club record for the youngest player to captain Al Shorta in a match. Al Shorta were the second Iraqi team to hit 1000 games (Al Quwa Al Jawiya became the first to do so nine months earlier).

The reason why Al Shorta were the first to play 100, 200 and 300 games and the second to play 400, 500 and 1000 is because Al Shorta and Al Quwa Al Jawiya are the only two teams to have played in every single season on the league since 1974. Al Shorta have never suffered relegation from the league which is a very impressive achievement, and reaching 1000 games is certainly one of the best achievements in the club's history.

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