



## Al Shorta's Greatest Players - Number 25:

### Gilbert Sami



Gilbert Shamuel Shamasha Eshaya (known simply as Gilbert Sami) represented both Montakhab Al Shorta and Aliyat Al Shorta and spent thirteen inspiring seasons with the Police teams.

His career started at Al-Athori (a.k.a. Assyrian S.C.) in 1955 where he spent three years, before playing for Al Quwa Al Jawiya for two years and then being signed by Montakhab Al Shorta in 1960.

In 1963, Gilbert joined Aliyat Al Shorta (one of the many Police teams at the time after the Police Games Directorate split Montakhab Al Shorta into multiple teams) and he won four League of the Institutes titles (in 1967-68, 1968-69, 1969-70 and 1971-72) and two Republics Cups in 1968 and 1969 there.

The defender, capable of playing at left-back or centre-half, was not only good defensively but also had great technique and skill on the ball, making him stand out from the rest.

He was one of the famous Iraqi players who represented Iraq during the 1960s and 1970s alongside the likes of Ammo Baba, Youra Eshaya and Khoshaba Lawo.

In 1973, Gilbert moved to Lebanon and signed for second division club Al Istiklal where he was appointed as player-manager. He managed to get the club promoted to the first division and was a very well-respected person there. In 1975 he immigrated to the United States where he managed a club known as Winged Bull and won the major division title of the football tournament of Illinois.

Just like his father, Sami Tittouna, Gilbert managed to become one of Iraq's top players and had a career full of great achievements; he is without a doubt an Al Shorta legend and one of their best players of his era.

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