



Al Shorta's Greatest Players - Number 28: Mustafa Kareem



All Iraqi football fans took notice of Mustafa Kareem when, at the age of just 17, he won the Iraqi Premier League's Golden Boot award for the 2004-05 season for Al Kahrabaa. He then made the big move to Al Shorta for the 2005-06 season and excelled there too, scoring 14 goals for the club and almost winning the Golden Boot award again, only to lose out to Karbalaa's Sahib Abbas.

For the next seven years, Mustafa enjoyed spells in Egypt, United Arab Emirates and Qatar as well as in Iraq with Erbil and Al Quwa Al Jawiya, before returning to Al Shorta in 2013. The big-name signing did not disappoint as he scored more goals than any other Al Shorta player that season (despite suffering a long-term injury) as the Police retained the Iraqi Premier League title. His goals included a goal against Al Zawraa in the season's opener and three goals against Duhok (split over two games).

Mustafa earned his first Iraq call-up in 2008 and has since earned 47 more, becoming a regular for the national team in past years. A clinical striker,

Mustafa will always be remembered as one of Al Shorta's deadliest forwards and brightest talents, and Al Shorta would not have won the 2013-14 Iraqi Premier League without his crucial goals.

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