



## Al Shorta's Greatest Players - Number 29:

### Tariq Aziz



Tariq Aziz was an attacking player who could play in midfield but usually played as a striker. Born in 1944, he was nicknamed the 'Fox of Baghdad', and was a clinical goalscorer. He started his senior career at Quwa Al Siyara before signing for Aliyat Al Shorta in 1963 after their promotion to the top-flight. He would stay there all the way until Aliyat Al Shorta were merged with the other Police teams to form Al Shorta in 1974, and eventually retired at the club in 1976.

He was a key component of the famous Aliyat Al Shorta side that won four league titles in the space of five seasons, and also helped the team reach the final of what is now the AFC Champions League in 1971, refusing to face Israeli side Maccabi Tel-Aviv in the final.

His other honours at the club include the 1968 and 1969 editions of the Republics Cup. In terms of international football, the 'man with the golden head', as he was often called by sports journalists, featured many teams for the Iraq national team and helped them to win the 1966 Arab Nations Cup, hosted in Baghdad. He also scored a memorable goal in a match with Egypt in 1968 that ended 1-1, and overall, he scored 35 goals combined

for the school, military, youth and senior Iraq teams in both official and unofficial games.

His son Ziyad Tariq also went on to become an Al Shorta legend, while his other son Abdul-Qadir Tariq has too gone on to follow in his father's footsteps by playing for Al Shorta. Tariq Aziz sadly passed away in 2014 but he will never be forgotten by fans of the Green Harps.

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