



Al Shorta's Greatest Players - Number 30:

Ali Husain Jalil



Ali Husain Jalil was a fantastic goalkeeper who, across two different spells at the club, became a fan favourite and won the league title.

Ali became Al Shorta's number one goalkeeper post-war and starred for Al Shorta in both their 2004 and 2005 AFC Champions League campaigns. One standout performance came in a 1-1 draw with Pas Hamedan - Al Shorta's first ever point in the AFC Champions League since the formation of the tournament in the 2002-03 season - where Ali made a number of outstanding saves to keep his side in the game. He also excelled in matches against Al Sharjah and Al Rayyan, keeping a clean sheet against the latter opponent.

Ali Husain left the club to join Al Quwa Al Jawiya before a short spell at Al Naft, but rejoined 'Al Qeetharah' in 2010 and he produced many great performances in the 2010-11 season to help the club avoid relegation. The following season he was named club captain, and remained captain up until the arrival of Nashat Akram in February 2013.

The high point of Ali's career at Al Shorta was the 2012-13 season, when Al Shorta won the Iraqi Premier League for the first time in a decade. As vice-captain of the club, he was one of the three players who walked up to the podium to lift the trophy (the other two players being club captain Nashat Akram and captain for the day Amjad Kalaf).

However, Ali Husain had spent most of that season sitting on the bench, behind fellow Iraqi 'keepers Mohammed Hameed and Mohammed Gassid in the pecking order, and therefore decided to leave the club at the end of that campaign to join Zakho. In an emotional letter Ali wrote to fans of the club on his departure, he thanked the fans for their support and said that he had achieved his dream in winning the league for Al Shorta, and he will never be forgotten by the Police faithful.

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