



## AI Shorta's Greatest Moments - Number 30: Nashat Akram re-signs for 'Al Qeetharah' (2013)



AI Shorta started the 2012-13 season well, with eight wins, six draws and zero defeats in their first fourteen games. Their new African strikers Jean Michel N'Lend and Minusu Buba had already scored a number of goals, while the ever-reliable Amjad Kalaf and Ahmed Fadhel were on form and AI Shorta had only conceded ten goals.

But, AI Shorta were looking slightly unconvincing at times. Draws with minnows Al Kahrabaa, Al Naft and Al Sulaimaniya were soon followed with tight 1-0 wins over relegation candidates Kirkuk and Karbalaa, and then AI Shorta drew their next two games with Duhok and Amanat Baghdad.

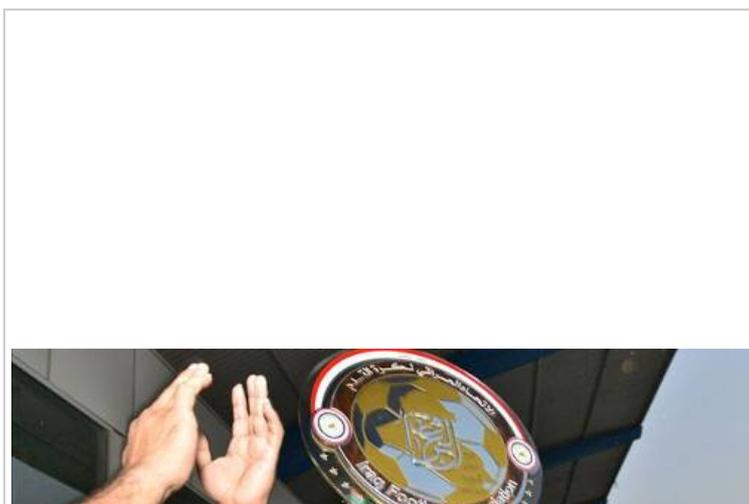
What the Police were missing was a playmaker. They had players who could dominate the midfield like Hussein Abdul Wahid and Ahmed Fadhel, but they were lacking someone

who could create chances out of nothing and dictate the game from midfield, spraying balls across the pitch to players in attacking positions. It was the absence of such a player that was often preventing AI Shorta from coming away with wins or at least more convincing wins against the weaker opponents as they couldn't create enough dangerous goalscoring opportunities.

So when AI Shorta submitted a bid of 500 million Iraqi dinars to Emirati club Al Nasr for the services of Nashat Akram, AI Shorta fans became very excited and hopeful. Nashat was already a club legend, who had started his career with AI Shorta in 2000 and had played a big part in AI Shorta winning the Iraqi Premier League and Umm Al Ma'arak Cup in the 2002-03 season. Not only was he a club legend, but he was an Iraqi football legend in general. Making over a century of appearances for the national team, Nashat was the man of the match in the 2007 AFC Asian Cup final that Iraq sensationally won, and he would have signed for English giants Manchester City had he not been prevented from doing so by work permit issues. He went on to sign for Dutch side FC Twente where he won the Eredivisie title, but Nashat had stated before how much he truly loved AI Shorta. The deal was finalised and in February 2013, Nashat became an 'Al Qeetharah' player once again.

Nashat came with a plan, saying he wanted to win the league title for the fans, and he executed that plan with perfection. He became club captain and scored four goals in his first four starts, including a crucial match-winner against title rivals Erbil. He provided many assists for his teammates, and scored one of the best goals in the club's recent history in a dramatic 3-2 win over Karbalaa where AI Shorta came back from being 2-0 down with twenty minutes remaining. He scored another vital goal in the Iraqi El Clasico against Al Zawraa before helping the side to a 3-0 win over Al Talaba that won AI Shorta the league. Without Nashat, AI Shorta would not have been crowned champions that season, and his return to the club is a truly unforgettable moment in AI Shorta's history.

To watch Nashat's first press conference on his return to the club, [click here](#).





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