



Al Shorta's Greatest Moments - Number 35:

Al Shorta avoid relegation with 2-0 win over Al Naft (2011)



The 2010-11 season was nothing short of disastrous for Al Shorta for the majority of the campaign. They had beaten the reigning champions Duhok (1-0) and the eventual runners-up Erbil (3-1), but aside from that, wins were few and far between. In fact, in their first 22 games, they only accumulated five wins.

After 22 games, they sat in eighth place in their group on 26 points, one place away from the relegation zone, but Duhok (who were in ninth) were only a point behind them and had five games in hand. Therefore, Al Shorta were effectively in the relegation zone with four games of the season remaining.

They managed to win their next two games against Al Kahrabaa and Samarra, but they fell to a 1-0 defeat to Duhok in their penultimate match of the season. This left Al Shorta in eighth place with 32 points and +3 goal difference. Al Mosul

were in the relegation zone in ninth place, also on 32 points but with -1 goal difference. This meant that if Al Mosul earned a better result against Samarra than Al Shorta did against Al Naft on the final matchday, Al Shorta would be relegated for the first time in their history. Both games were going on at the same time, and Al Mosul ended up winning their game 3-2, but it didn't matter as Al Shorta eased to a 2-0 victory over Al Naft at Al Zawraa Stadium. Both of Al Shorta's goals were scored by Amjad Kalaf, who was just 19 years old at the time.

Amjad had been Al Shorta's best player throughout the entire campaign, but unfortunately he was out injured for a long time and Al Shorta suffered without the youngster. He scored within minutes of his return from injury when he was subbed on in Al Shorta's third-last game against Samarra and took his tally for the season to ten with his brace against Al Naft despite being out for so long.

Just two seasons later, Al Shorta would go on to win the league title, and they then won it again the following campaign. But without this victory over Al Naft, none of that would have happened, and that's why this is one of the most important and special moments in the history of the club, and one of the many reasons why Amjad Kalaf's name will forever live on in Al Shorta fans' memories.

To see Amjad Kalaf's second goal against Al Naft that wrapped up the game, [click here](#).

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