



AI Shorta's Greatest Moments - Number 40:

Late penalty against Duhok keeps title dream alive (2013)



Before AI Shorta's home game against Duhok in round 30 of 34 in the 2012-13 Iraqi Premier League, the Police were on top of the league, with Al Zawraa, Al Quwa Al Jawiya and Erbil hot on their heels. The Duhok game was the start of a very tough final five games for the eventual champions, with Amanat Baghdad, Erbil, Al Zawraa and Al Talaba awaiting them.

Simply put, it was a must-win game for AI Shorta and they got off to a great start as they went 2-0 up in the first half through goals by Minusu Buba (pictured) and Amjad Kalaf. Duhok pulled one back right at the end of the first period through Mohanad Abdul-Raheem, and Mohanad scored again early on in the second half to make it 2-2 and silence the home crowd. Mahdi Kamil soon made it 3-2 to 'Al Qeetharah' and AI Shorta's fans thought that that would be enough to win the thrilling match but Duhok managed to equalise again when Alaa Abdul-Zahra tapped the ball in.

It looked like AI Shorta were going to drop two vital points in the game which would have yielded a potentially fatal impact on their title chances, but just before stoppage time, Amjad Kalaf was brought down while bursting through on goal and AI Shorta were awarded a penalty. To many's surprise, Muhammed Faisal stepped up to take the crucial penalty, and under immense pressure the midfielder perfectly placed the ball into the bottom-right corner of the net to send the crowd wild as AI Shorta went home with the 4-3 victory. The two points gained from that penalty were vital when you consider that AI Shorta ended up winning the league by just two points ahead of Erbil (and Erbil had superior goal difference). Easily the game of the season, the enthralling match will forever live in the memory of AI Shorta's loyal supporters.

To see the goals of this mesmerising encounter, [click here](#).

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