



## Al Shorta's Greatest Moments - Number 8: **Al Shorta retain league title for first time in 44 years (2014)**



Al Shorta followed up their 2012-13 Iraqi Premier League title by being crowned champions of the 2013-14 Iraqi Premier League and retaining the league title for the first time since the 1969-70 season.

Al Shorta kicked off the season with a 1-0 win over rivals Al Zawraa at Al Shaab Stadium thanks to new signing Mustafa Kareem's goal. Other highlights from the league season included a 5-0 drubbing of Duhok, a 2-1 win against closest title challengers Erbil, 2-1 and 1-0 victories over Al Talaba at Al Shaab Stadium, a 1-0 win against Al Quwa Al Jawiya at the same venue and a last-gasp 2-1 victory at Amanat Baghdad with young star Sherko Kareem scoring the winning goals in the latter two games.



Al Shorta, whose kits were manufactured by Nike and sponsored by Royal Arena Sport, lost just two games all season against Zakho and Naft Al Junoob, and their Brazilian manager Lorival Santos received a Certificate of Merit for being the first manager in Iraqi football to win all of the first five 'classic' matches (against Al Zawraa, Duhok, Erbil, Al Talaba and Al Quwa Al Jawiya) of the season. The Brazilian became only the second foreign manager in history to win the Iraqi Premier League.

Each team was set to play 30 games in the season, but the league had to be ended early with teams having played 21, 22 or 23 games due to the unrest in the country at the time. Al Shorta, who were top of the league at the time, a point ahead of Erbil, with games in hand over almost all the other teams in the league, were therefore awarded the title and a place in the next year's AFC Cup.

The Police ended the season with a record of twelve wins, seven draws and two defeats from 21 games and their top scorer was Mustafa Kareem with seven goals.

Winning a league title is an very difficult feat to achieve for any team, but to retain the title the following season is an

even more impressive achievement. Al Shorta cemented their place on top of Iraqi football by clinching their tenth league title and the 2013-14 season will never be forgotten.



**AL SHORTA'S RESULTS FROM THE 2013-14 IRAQI PREMIER LEAGUE:**

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Round	Opponent	Result	AI Shorta scorers
1	Al Zawraa	1-0 win	Mustafa Kareem
2	Naft Misan	2-1 win	Mustafa Kareem, Cristiano
3	Al Najaf	0-0 draw	
4	Duhok	5-0 win	Dhurgham Ismail, Mustafa Kareem (2), Hamdy Al-Massri, Waleed Salem
5	Al Karkh	2-0 win	Nashat Akram, Mustafa Kareem
6	Al Minaa	1-1 draw	Mustafa Kareem
7	Zakho	0-1 loss	
8	Erbil	2-1 win	Mahdi Kareem, Cristiano
9	Al Naft	0-0 draw	
10	Al Talaba	2-1 win	Ahmed Ayad, Amjad Kalaf
11	Naft Misan	3-1 win	Karrar Hameed, Dhurgham Ismail (2)
12	Al Quwa Al Jawiya	1-0 win	Sherko Kareem
13	Al Talaba	1-0 win	Amjad Kalaf
14	Al Najaf	1-0 win	Mahdi Kareem
15	Duhok	2-2 draw	Amjad Kalaf, Mustafa Kareem
16	Amanat Baghdad	2-1 win	Ali Bahjat, Sherko Kareem
17	Karbala	0-0 draw	
18	Al Karkh	2-2 draw	Hamdy Al-Massri, Amjad Kalaf
19	Al Minaa	0-0 draw	
20	Zakho	1-0 win	Ahmed Ayad
21	Naft Al Junoob	1-2 loss	Dhurgham Ismail

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