



## AI Shorta's Greatest Players - Number 1:

### Abid Kadhim



Described by many as AI Shorta's most legendary player of all-time, Abid Kadhim (the man who holds the record for the most appearances for AI Shorta and was nicknamed 'The King' by Iraqi fans) was one of the best defenders in the whole continent at his prime.

He started his career at AI Naft Al Dora before signing for Aliyat AI Shorta in the 1960s and would go on to become the side's captain and most important player alongside the likes of Douglas Aziz and Riyadh Nouri.

He captained Aliyat AI Shorta to four league titles as well as two Republics Cups and was captain of the historic Aliyat AI Shorta side who reached the final of the 1971 edition of what is now the AFC Champions League and refused to play Israeli side Maccabi Tel Aviv in the final.

When Aliyat AI Shorta were merged with the other Police clubs to form AI Shorta in 1974, Abid Kadhim did not play in the 1974-75 Iraqi National League season and nor did any other Aliyat AI Shorta player, but the Aliyat AI Shorta stars were re-signed to the club for the 1975-76 season.

After Abid retired from playing in 1976, he took up a new career in managing and managed AI Shorta on two different occasions: the first was in 1983 and the second was from 1985 to 1987; in this second spell he managed AI Shorta to the 1985 Arab Police Championship title (their third such title).

On the international level, Abid lived his dream as the outstanding defender was named captain of the Iraq national team in the early 1970s due to his quality, experience and both leadership and organisation skills. He helped Iraq win the Arab Nations Cup in 1966 and the World Military Cup in 1972 and also helped Iraq qualify to their first Asian Cup in the same year; he was an invaluable part of the squad during their 1968 Olympics and 1974 World Cup qualifying campaigns and retired as not only one of Iraq's best ever defenders, but one of their best ever captains and one of their best ever players.

'Captain courageous', as he was named by the Australian press, sadly died on 5th January 2005 but will never be forgotten by any Iraqi fan and will hold a special place in the heart of all 'AI Qeetharah' supporters thanks to his immense success as both a player and a manager.

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