



Al Shorta's Greatest Players - Number 11: **Mohammed Tabra**



Mohammed Tabra, a tough-tackling defender, started his playing career at the age of 17 with Al Kahrabaa in 1967 before joining Shorta Al Najda (Police Debuties). He helped Shorta Al Najda to an eighth place finish in the 1973-74 League of the Institutes before the team merged with the other Police teams including Aliyat Al Shorta and Kuliya Al Shorta to form Al Shorta Sports Club.

Mohammed's first game with Al Shorta was a 1-0 win over Al Quwa Al Jawiya, and he was a first-team player for Al Shorta all the way until his retirement in 1979 where he won an impressive two Arab Police Championships. He joined the coaching staff at Al Shorta for the next campaign, becoming the assistant to new manager Douglas Aziz, and he helped the club to their first ever Iraqi Premier League title that season.

He made his international debut for Iraq in 1975 after being called up for the squad by Scottish manager Danny McLennan with Iraq defeating Afghanistan by six goals to nil. Overall, he collected a good 42 appearances for the Iraq national team and 16 appearances for the Iraqi military team and was an important defender for his nation during the 1976 Gulf Cup campaign in particular.

After his playing career, Mohammed went on to manage Al Shorta five different times (1984, 1985, 1989-90, 1991-92 and 2012) and is currently an adviser at the club, a position he has held for many years now. He also managed Iraqi sides Al Jaish (1996-97), Al Talaba (2000), Al Naft and Duhok, as well as managing in the United Arab Emirates and Qatar.

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