



Al Shorta's Greatest Players - Number 13:

Mudhafar Nouri



Mudhafar Nouri, brother of Riyadh Nouri, is both a legendary Al Shorta player and a legendary Al Shorta manager. The forward was signed by Aliyat Al Shorta from Al Naft Al Dora in the mid-1960s and made his debut for the team in 1966, scoring a hat-trick against Syrian side Al Hikma in a 4-0 win. The highlight of his Aliyat Al Shorta career was when he scored the opening goal in the 1969 Republics Cup final which Al Shorta went on to win 2-1.

He was part of the 1971 squad which reached the final of Asia's top club competition and scored one goal in that tournament: a group stage goal in a 6-1 humiliation of F.C. Punjab Police.

At the age of only seventeen, he was called up to the Iraq squad and played the last twenty minutes of the historic opening game of Al Shaab Stadium for Baghdad XI against Portuguese giants Benfica, where the late Eusebio featured for the visitors.

The forward earned 53 caps and bagged 28 goals for the Iraq national team in total, scoring the winning goal of the 1972 World Military Cup final in Baghdad, and earned the award for the 'Best Striker in Iraq' in 1967 ahead of the likes of Ammo Baba.

He was forced to retire in the mid-1970s after suffering some serious injuries but the legend remained close to Al Shorta, first coaching their youth team and then becoming the club's manager on two different occasions (from 1992 to 1993 and in 1996). Mudhafar and his brother remain two of Al Shorta's best ever players and will always be remembered as true legends by Al Shorta's loyal fans.

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