



## AI Shorta's Greatest Players - Number 15:

### Mahmoud Majeed



Mahmoud Majeed, born in 1974, will forever be remembered for scoring one of the most important goals in AI Shorta's Iraqi Premier League history.

AI Shorta were drawing 2-2 with Al Sulaikh on the final day of the 1997-98 league season as the game approached injury time. If AI Shorta managed to get another goal, they would overtake Al Quwa Al Jawiya at the top of the table and be crowned champions for the first time in eighteen years, but if the result remained 2-2, Jawiya would retain the title.

In second half injury time, an Al Sulaikh player fouled an AI Shorta player in the penalty area and gave away a penalty which, if scored, would win AI Shorta the league.

The majority of AI Shorta's players, terrified at the thought of missing the penalty, stepped away from the scene to try and get out of taking it, and penalty specialist and captain Saad Qais refused to take the penalty leaving Mahmoud Majeed with the responsibility of tucking the ball away from twelve yards. AI Shorta were literally one kick away from winning their seventh league title, and win the league they duly did when the striker showed nerves of steel to roll the ball to the 'keeper's right, sending the 'keeper the wrong way in the process, to clinch the title in the final minute of the season.

That season, Mahmoud Majeed also won the Iraqi Premier League's Golden Boot award with 22 goals, scoring against every team in the league apart from Salahaddin and Al Naft. Furthermore, he helped AI Shorta reach the Iraqi Elite Cup final in 1997, scoring a hat-trick in the famous 7-4 victory over Al Quwa Al Jawiya in the group stage and also scoring against Al Talaba in the tournament; he was joint top scorer of that tournament alongside Waleed Dhahad of Al Quwa Al Jawiya and Salman Hussein of Al Najaf.

The legend went on to play in Lebanon for Tadamon Sour and Shabab Al Sahel and also played in Jordan and Syria, not to mention the fact that he was part of the Iraq national team squad for their 2000 AFC Asian Cup qualifying campaign and for their 1999 Pan Arab Games campaign.

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