



## **Al Shorta's Greatest Moments - Number 17:** **Foundation of Montakhab Al Shorta and competing in first ever tournament (1932)**



14 November 1932 was the day that Montakhab Al Shorta were founded. The first tournament they competed in after their foundation was the 1932-33 Prince Ghazi Cup, and their first recorded game was in December 1932 against Al Lasilki. The game ended in a 1-1 draw, with Montakhab Al Shorta's first ever goal being scored Abid Abtou in the 90th minute of the game.

Their next game was another 1-1 draw, this time against Al Jadeed; Montakhab Al Shorta's goal was scored by Shenawa. Their next recorded game in the tournament was a 3-2 win over Al Ashbal, before they were knocked out of the cup by Al Quwa Al Jawiya in January 1933 when an own goal saw them fall to a 1-0 defeat to the Falcons.

Montakhab Al Shorta would go on to play in the 1933-34 and 1934-35 editions of the tournament too. In 1938 they won their first trophy, and since then they have gone from strength to strength. Little did the policemen who founded Montakhab Al Shorta know that the team would evolve to become one of the biggest teams in Iraq, winning many league titles, winning the Arab Champions League and reaching the final of the AFC Champions League, proudly withdrawing from it rather than facing an Israeli club. That date, 14 November 1932, will forever be remembered in the history books as the foundation of a true giant of Iraqi football.

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