



Al Shorta's Greatest Moments - Number 2

Al Shorta win the inaugural Arab Champions League with 4-2 aggregate win (1982)



What better way to win a Champions League title than to win it in your own homeland? 7th February 1982 was the day Al Shorta wrote their name into the history books at Al Shaab Stadium by becoming the first ever winners of the Arab Champions League.

Al Shorta, managed by Douglas Aziz, had a squad consisting of captain Raad Hammoudi, Sabah Lazem, Issam Khalil, Tariq Abdulameer, Riyadh Nouri, Haadi Al Janabi, Ismail Mohammed, Adnan Jafar, Salih Radhi, Razzaq Hatem, Ali Hussein Mahmoud, Mahmoud Hussein Mahmoud, Faisal Aziz, Thamer Salman, Kareem Dawood, Hashim Sheneen, Maher Dheeban and Khalid Lazem.

Lebanese side Al Nejme's 2-1 victory over Jordanian outfit Al Ahli in the previous round confirmed that they would face Al Shorta in the first ever Arab Champions League final. The final was to be a two-legged tie, with both legs to be played at Al Shaab Stadium in Baghdad because it was not safe to play in Lebanon due to the Lebanese Civil War. The winners of the tie on aggregate were to lift the now famous Champions League trophy.

The first leg was a comfortable affair for the eventual champions with the Iraqi side earning a 2-0 win to take into the next leg. Ali Hussein Mahmoud was the man who scored the goals for Al Shorta to put them in the driving seat.

The second leg took place two days later. Al Nejme, desperate to recover from their first leg defeat and lift the trophy, managed to get the two goals they needed, but Al Shorta matched their opponents with two goals of their own in the game through Salih Radhi and Riyadh Nouri as the game ended 2-2. Al Shorta had done what they needed to do to become the champions; when the full-time whistle blew to confirm that Al Shorta had won the tie 4-2 on aggregate, the stadium erupted as Al Shorta's players, staff and supporters celebrated wildly.

This victory confirmed Al Shorta's place in history. Now, this famous club had not only conquered Asia in 1971 and won a whole host of domestic titles, but they also had yet another Champions League title to be proud of, becoming undoubtedly the ultimate Iraqi club and the first ever 'Kings of the Arab world'.



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