



Al Shorta's Greatest Moments - Number 21: **Nashat Akram inspires 8-0 humiliation of Duhok (2002)**



18th October 2002 was a day Al Shorta fans will never forget. Having won their first six games of the season, conceding just one goal in the process, Al Shorta had already established themselves as serious contenders for the 2002-03 title. Pulling the strings in midfield was an 18 year-old youngster who was one of the brightest prospects in Iraqi football; a man who would soon become a national legend: Nashat Akram.

Duhok were the next team to attempt to defeat the Police and the first 40 minutes of the game saw no goals, but the last five minutes of the first-half saw three. Nashat started the riot when his free-kick found a way through the wall and into the net, and two minutes later, Nashat doubled his and his side's tally with a great header into the corner. Tassyer Abdulhussein's tap-in three minutes later made it three goals to nil and sent Al Shorta Stadium wild.

Ahmad Mnajid made it four on 55 minutes, racing through and finishing low into the bottom-right corner, before Nashat completed his hat-trick ten minutes later with a delicious chip over the 'keeper. The 76th minute saw Mazen Abdulsattar make it six with a header before Ammar Abdulhussein's penalty and Abbas Raheem's 20-yard strike saw the scoreline stand at 8-0.

It was another win and another clean sheet for 'Al Qeetharah', but this was a special performance in which, as a team, Al Shorta absolutely demolished their opponents; a performance orchestrated by the young superstar Nashat Akram, who would go on to become one of Al Shorta's and Iraq's greatest ever players. The win contributed significantly to Al Shorta going on to win the league that season, as they finished just **three points ahead of Al Najaf** to win their eighth league title.

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