



Al Shorta's Greatest Players - Number 21: **Riyadh Nouri**



One of Al Shorta's greatest and most loyal players, Riyadh Nouri's goal in the second leg of the 1982 Arab Champions League final has gone down in the history books.

The midfielder started his senior career at Aliyat Al Shorta (the team he supported as a child) as an 18 year old in late 1969, winning the League of the Institutes title in the 1969-70 and 1971-72 seasons. He was part of the brilliant Aliyat Al Shorta squad who reached the final of what is now known as the AFC Champions League in 1971 (scoring one goal in the group stage), and soon he was one of the side's most important players.

When Aliyat Al Shorta merged with the other Police clubs to form Al Shorta in 1974, he continued to be a crucial player for the team, winning both the 1978 and 1985 editions of the Arab Police Championship with Al Shorta.

The most famous goal the star scored was most certainly his aforementioned goal in the second leg of the 1982 Arab Champions League final. Al Shorta were leading Al Nejmeh of Lebanon 2-0 from the first leg, and Salih Radhi and Riyadh Nouri scored Al Shorta's two goals in

the second leg which ended 2-2 as Al Shorta won the final 4-2 on aggregate.

During the 1970s, Riyadh was one of Iraq's star players and one of the first names on the team sheet, making his debut in 1972 in a 5-0 win against Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) and winning the World Military Cup with Iraq in both 1972 and 1977.

He retired from football at Al Shorta in the 1980s and left a legacy behind him as one of Al Shorta's and Iraq's best ever midfielders. His brother, Mudhafar Nouri, is also an Al Shorta legend.

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