



Al Shorta's Greatest Players - Number 23:

Sabah Hatem



Sabah Hatem was one of Al Shorta's most prolific forwards ever. The Iraq international, born in 1950, signed for Aliyat Al Shorta in the late 1960s after playing for Al Sikak Al Hadeed and immediately proved his worth on his debut for the team in 1970, scoring two goals in a 5-1 drubbing of Al Minaa.

Sabah continued to impress for Aliyat Al Shorta and was an important part of the side that reached the final of Asia's top club competition in 1971; he scored goals against both Bangkok Bank F.C. and F.C. Punjab Police in the group stage of the tournament.

He earned his first Iraq call-up that same year for a match against South Korea and three years later he played one of his most famous games for the national team when he scored two goals from the bench in a 3-1 win for Iraq over Libya.

He continued to defend the green and white of Al Shorta for the next few years after their formation as a sports club in 1974, scoring one goal during Al Shorta's successful 1976 Arab Police Championship campaign and winning the Iraqi National League title with Al Shorta in the 1979-80 season (the club's ever first Iraqi Premier League title). The Al Shorta legend's younger brother, Razzaq, also played for Al Shorta and was also part of that league title-winning squad.

In 1975, Sabah became the first player from Al Shorta Sports Club to play for the Iraq national team (Ali Karim was the first ever Al Shorta player to play for Iraq when he played for the national team in 1957 while playing for Montakhab Al Shorta).

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