



## **Al Shorta's Greatest Moments - Number 25:** **Seven Al Shorta players start for Iraq against Kuwait (2014)**



22 December 2014 saw the Iraq national team play a friendly match with the national team of Kuwait. What makes this a great moment in the history of Al Shorta is the fact that Iraq's starting eleven included seven Al Shorta players, the most Al Shorta players ever to appear in the lineup of the national team.

The seven players included the entire back four (Ali Bahjat, Salam Shakir, Dhurgham Ismail and Mahdi Kareem) as well as attacking players Amjad Kalaf, Alaa Abdul-Zahra and Marwan Hussein. Furthermore, Al Shorta right-back Waleed Salem was subbed onto the field during the game, meaning that eight Al Shorta players featured in total - only Al Zawraa

have had more players playing for Iraq in one game.

This impressive fact showcases the dominance that Al Shorta had over Iraqi football at the time. Al Shorta had won back-to-back league titles and were unbeaten in the 2014-15 Iraqi Premier League at the time when this game was played, and it was no surprise that they had so many internationals in their squad (they also had defender Hamdy Al-Massri in their squad who was a Syrian international and midfielder Makadji Boukar who had played for Cameroon).

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