



Al Shorta's Greatest Moments - Number 28: Aliyat Al Shorta win Republics Cup for second straight year (1969)



Having won the Republics Cup in 1968, Aliyat Al Shorta entered the competition the following year with the objective of retaining their crown and winning the cup for the second time. And they did exactly that, defeating Al Jaish in the final to lift the trophy.

Aliyat Al Shorta, managed by Mohammed Najib Kaban, had a squad consisting of Lateef Shandal, Satar Khalaf, Majeed Ali, Douglas Aziz, Abid Kadhim, Gilbert Sami, Jaseb Shand, Menam Hussein, Ghanim Abdul Hamid, Bashar Rasheed, Mudhafar Nouri, Jaseb Fahad, Essam Khalil, Zaria Malaket, Satar Jawad, Fanoos Al-Asadi, Hussein Fadhel, Shaker Ismail, Tariq Khudhair, Mohammed Nabeel, Khalifa Abid and Abdul Samad Assad.

Aliyat Al Shorta kicked off their tournament on 10 September with a 1-1 draw against Al Mosul at Al Mosul's stadium; Jaseb Shand scored Aliyat Al Shorta's goal. They won the second leg against Al Mosul five days later at Al Kashafa Stadium 2-0 thanks to goals from Jaseb Fahad and Ghanim Abdul Hamid (with Jaseb Fahad assisting Ghanim's goal). This qualified Aliyat Al Shorta to the quarter-finals.

They played Al Jaish in the quarter-final at Al Shaab Stadium on 21 September and drew the game 2-2. Jaseb Fahad gave Aliyat Al Shorta the lead on 16 minutes before Douglas Aziz's brilliant long-range strike in the second half put Aliyat Al Shorta 2-0 up. Nouri Dhiab pulled one back for Al Jaish and Al Jaish managed to get an unlikely equaliser late on through Gilbert Awekam as the game finished 2-2 after 90 minutes. The game went to extra time but neither side managed to get a winner. Therefore, according to the tournament rules, rather than having a penalty shootout there would be a drawing of lots to see which team would reach the semi-finals. Aliyat Al Shorta were the lucky side as they were drawn to go through, however it did not really matter as Al Jaish also advanced to the semi-finals as the best losing team of the quarter-finals.

On 24 September, Aliyat Al Shorta faced Al Shabab in the semi-finals at Al Shaab Stadium and won the game 2-1. Bashar Rasheed scored Aliyat Al Shorta's first goal by rounding the goalkeeper and netting before the legendary Douglas Aziz doubled Aliyat Al Shorta's lead with yet another brilliant long-range strike. Ali Kadhim managed to get a goal for Al Shabab but it proved to just be a consolation.

The final took place six days later at the same venue, with Aliyat Al Shorta facing off against Al Jaish yet again. Mudhafar Nouri put Aliyat Al Shorta a goal up in the 44th minute by scoring a rebound with a header after the goalkeeper could only parry Menam Hussein's effort into his path. And on 57 minutes the Police Machinery went 2-0 ahead when Menam Hussein headed in from Bashar Rasheed's accurate ring-wing cross. Nouri Dhiab pulled a goal back for Al Jaish on 70 minutes with a powerful shot from outside the area but Aliyat Al Shorta managed to hold on to their lead and lift the Republics Cup for the second time in a row to add to their league title in what is certainly one of the club's proudest moments.

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