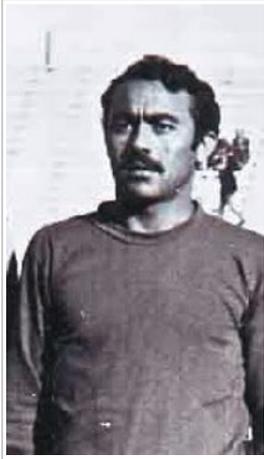




Al Shorta's Greatest Players - Number 30:

Bashar Rasheed



The late Bashar Rasheed was a fantastic striker on his day. In 1966, he joined Al Sikak Al Hadeed and two years later he moved to Quwa Al Siyara. In 1971, he made his move to Aliyat Al Shorta and in his very first season at the club he won the league title.

The following season, he achieved the best individual honour of his career as he won the league's Golden Boot award, scoring five goals in seven games including a goal against former side Al Sikak Al Hadeed on 16 October 1972, a hat-trick against Shorta Al Najda on 30 November 1972 and a goal against Al Mashat on 27 December 1972.

The following season saw him score even more goals as he bagged six, but he just missed out on a second consecutive Golden Boot award to Shorta Al Najda's Zahrawi Jaber. At international level, he featured in 1974 FIFA World Cup Qualifying for Iraq, featuring in the opening game against Australia and scoring a beautiful goal in the 10th minute Iraq's second game which was a 2-0 win over New Zealand as the Lions of Mesopotamia just missed out on a place in the playoff. He was also part of Iraq's 1972 World Military Championship-winning squad, scoring against Ivory Coast, and was their top scorer in the following edition of the tournament where Iraq finished runners-up to Italy.

His final season with Al Shorta was the 1975-76 campaign. In 1978, at the age of just 29, Bashar was tragically executed. According to teammate Abid Kadhim, this was because he was caught making critical remarks about the Ba'athist regime on a secret tape recording. Bashar was a wonderful player and wrote his name into Al Shorta's history books forever despite only spending four seasons at the club; he will never be forgotten. Rest in peace.

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