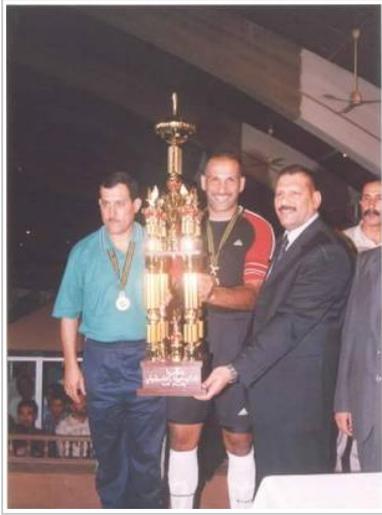




AI Shorta's Greatest Moments - Number 31:

AI Shorta win AI Quds International Championship (2002)



Five days after AI Shorta won the 2002 Umm Al Ma'arak Cup, they kicked off their successful campaign in the 2002 AI Quds International Championship and eventually won the tournament. AI Shorta were drawn into Group B alongside Omyyah of Syria, Itehad Al Shejaeea of Palestine and Al Baqa'a of Jordan.

AI Shorta started with a 2-1 win over Omyyah. Ammar Ahmad opened the scoring on five minutes and just two minutes later, Ahmad Mnajid scored a penalty to put the Police 2-0 up. Hazem Harba got a goal back for Omyyah on 64 minutes but AI Shorta ended up with the three points.

AI Shorta's next game was a comfortable 3-0 thrashing of Al Baqa'a. Goals from Tassyer Abdulhussein, Faris Abdul-Sattar and Ammar Ahmad on 25, 28 and 80 minutes respectively won the game for AI Shorta and ensured that they got the three points.

AI Shorta's last group game was another easy 3-0 victory, but this time it was against Itehad Al Shejaeea. Ayad Abbas opened the scoring on 45 minutes with a trademark penalty and Ammar Ahmad scored his third goal in three games in the tournament on 60 minutes. Mohanad Mohammed Ali scored in the last minute to secure a great win for AI Shorta. AI Shorta finished top of the group with nine points, ahead of Omyyah who earned six points, Itehad Al Shajaeaa who earned three and Al Baqa'a who failed to earn a point.

This meant that AI Shorta had qualified to the semi-final and would face Baghdad rivals AI Quwa Al Jawiya, the winners of Group A. AI Shorta won the game 2-1. Munaim Yousef scored a penalty for AI Shorta on 30 minutes before AI Quwa Al Jawiya equalised with a penalty of their own, scored by Hadi Jaber on 47 minutes. Ammar Abdulhussein scored the winning goal for the Police on 75 minutes to secure a place in the 2002 AI Quds International Championship final.

Iraqi club AI Najaf were AI Shorta's opponents, and AI Najaf had thrashed Omyyah 4-1 in their semi-final game to reach this stage. This was the perfect opportunity for AI Shorta to exact their revenge on AI Najaf, who had inflicted defeats on AI Shorta in both the 1992 Al Nasr Wal Salam Cup final and the 1997 Umm Al Ma'arak Cup final. And AI Shorta duly did so, coming out victorious on 8 September thanks to Ahmed Hussein Adan's goal on 65 minutes.

AI Shorta had written their name into the history books by winning an international club competition once again.

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