



Al Shorta's Greatest Players - Number 31: **Ghanim Abdul Hamid**



Ghanim Abdul Hamid, born in 1949, was one of the most influential midfielders of the great Aliyat Al Shorta team in the 1970s and will forever be remembered for his exploits at the 1971 edition of what is now known as the AFC Champions League.

Ghanim was handpicked to join Aliyat Al Shorta in 1971 by legendary manager Mohammed Najib Kaban, having represented the team two years prior in a match against the German Police team. The right winger scored his first goal in the very first minute of the team's AFC Champions League campaign that year, opening the scoring by dinking the ball over the 'keeper in a historic 3-2 win over defending Asian champions Taj Tehran.

He wasn't finished there though and went on to grab a scintillating hat-trick in the team's final group game with F.C. Punjab Police, sending Aliyat Al Shorta through to the semi-finals where they once again beat the defending Asian champions, this time by a score of 2-0. Refusing to face Israeli side Maccabi Tel Aviv in the final, the Police went home as the true Kings of the continent and Ghanim was a major part of that historic and unmatched success.

Ghanim carried on playing for Al Shorta Sports Club, formed by the merger of Aliyat Al Shorta with Kuliya Al Shorta and Shorta Al Najda in 1974, and was a major part of their two Arab Police Championship triumph in 1976 and their league title win in 1980, while at international level he won the World Military Championship in 1972. He retired in 1981 after being injured in a game against Al Ramtha of Jordan and went on to coach Al Shorta's youth team where he won the youth league and discovered some great players such as Muwafaq Hussein.

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