



Al Shorta's Greatest Moments - Number 32: **Amjad Kalaf scores overhead kick on debut (2007)**



Amjad Kalaf, born on 5 October 1991, arrived at Al Shorta in 2007 from Al Kut. After a disappointing end to a promising 2006-07 season, Al Shorta started their 2007-08 campaign with high hopes and the belief that they could mount a serious title challenge and even win the league. So, when the Al Shorta side stepped out of the tunnel before their league season opener (an away game at Al Shualah), some eyebrows were raised when it was announced that Amjad Kalaf, a 16 year-old at the time, was on the bench. Some Al Shorta fans questioned Thair Ahmed's decision to include such a young, inexperienced player in the squad in an important season opener like this. They were soon silenced.

Al Shorta had raced into a 2-0 lead within 10 minutes as Tassyer Abdulhusein's header and Hashim Ridha's goal put the Police in a comfortable position. But they needed one more goal in order to be fully sure of the three points.

The man, or, more accurately, the teenager who got the goal was none other than Amjad Kalaf who had been subbed on at the start of the second half. Within a minute of his introduction to the game, Al Shorta were on the attack. The ball was launched into Al Shualah's penalty box and nodded towards Amjad Kalaf. Without the ball bouncing, the youngster shocked everybody by producing a stunning bicycle kick, leaping into the air and striking the ball cleanly over his head. The ball flew into the back of the net

and Amjad Kalaf had bagged himself his first ever goal for Al Shorta.

The kid from Kut, nicknamed 'The Dark Gazelle' for his dark skin and immense pace, would go on to become a fan favourite at Al Shorta, saving the club from relegation in 2011 with two goals against Al Naft on the final day of the campaign, before becoming Al Shorta's youngest ever player to captain the team in a match at 20 years of age, scoring more goals than any other Al Shorta player in their 2012-13 double-winning season and scoring the club's first ever AFC Cup goals in a 3-1 win against Al Wahda. Amjad will certainly go down in history as one of Al Shorta's finest and most loyal talents, and it was this game and this goal that got his Al Shorta career off to the perfect start.

To see all three of Al Shorta's goals against Al Shualah including Amjad's stunning goal, [click here](#).

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