



Al Shorta's Greatest Players - Number 35:

Ahmed Fadhel



Ahmed Fadhel was only 16 years old when he made his debut for Al Shorta in the 2007-08 season but it didn't take him long to establish himself as one of the most valuable players at 'Al Qeetharah'. His first goal for the club was arguably his best as he smashed the ball into the top corner from outside the box to give Al Shorta the lead in a league game against Karbalaa on 13 May 2010 as the Harps won 5-2. The 2010-11 season saw him bag two goals, against Diyala and against Erbil where his goal sealed a fantastic 3-1 win over the eventual league runners-up.

Al Shorta almost got relegated that season but Ahmed stayed loyal to the club and decided to stay despite being wanted by a host of other sides. The 2011-12 season saw him bag two goals against Al Karkh and Erbil, with the latter goal being another long-range screamer, but it was the 2012-13 season where Ahmed showed the whole of Iraq why Al Shorta fans had considered him to be one of the best midfielders in the country.

Ahmed played almost every game that season, providing countless assists, a wonderful long-range goal against title rivals Duhok and a steel in midfield that was so vital to the club as they stormed to their first league title in a decade. Ahmed's loyalty to the club had paid off and he continued to reap the rewards as Al Shorta retained their title the following season.

Ahmed's excellent performances in the league earned him a call-up to the Iraq national team, but with only three caps, he will go down in history alongside the likes of Hashim Ridha as one of the most wronged players in the country's history as the midfielder known for his flair and skill was more than worthy of a regular place in the national team set-up. With Al Shorta signing the likes of legendary Iraq midfielder Qusay Munir, Ahmed started to have less of a role with the team and went on loan to Amanat Baghdad in the 2014-15 season, but returned to Al Shorta in 2015-16, becoming the club's vice-captain and scoring a memorable equalising goal against Zakho early on in the campaign.

In 2016, after nine years of great service, Ahmed finally said an emotional goodbye to the club and signed for Al Zawraa. He will always be remembered as one of the most important players in Al Shorta's Golden Generation of 2012-2014 where the club won back-to-back league titles.

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