



Al Shorta's Greatest Players - Number 37:

Hadi Al-Janabi



Born in 1957, Hadi Hussein Al-Janabi supported Aliyat Al Shorta growing up and idolised their most famous players, the likes of Abid Kadhim and Douglas Aziz. In 1972, after a string of impressive performances for a club named Babil, Hadi was wanted by some of Iraq's top teams such as Al Sikak Al Hadeed, Al Bareed, Al Farqa Al Thalatha and Aliyat Al Shorta, and for him it was an easy choice as he joined the Violets, led by Mohammed Najib Kaban.

The defender, also capable of playing in midfield, made his debut in the opening game of the 1973-74 season on 11 October 1973 at just 16 years of age, and put in a brilliant performance as the Police Machinery thrashed rivals and eventual champions Al Quwa Al Jawiya by five goals to two, with one of Hadi's idols Douglas Aziz getting on the scoresheet from the penalty spot.

He won a host of trophies with merger club Al Shorta, including two Arab Police Championship titles in 1976 and 1978, the Iraqi League title in 1980, the famous inaugural Arab Champions League title in 1982 and the President's Gold Cup in 1983. After retirement, he became manager Douglas Aziz's assistant at Al Shorta and also coached his first club Babil in the 1994-95 season, helping discover future Iraq legend Razzaq Farhan.

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