



Al Shorta's Greatest Players - Number 39: **Ahmad Mnajid**



Ahmad Mnajid began his career at Al Karkh in 1999 before moving to Al Shorta the following year. His first tournament for Al Shorta was the 2000 Umm Al Ma'arak Cup, where the striker scored against both Salahaddin and Duhok in the group stage as Al Shorta went on to win the tournament for the first time. In the 2001-02 season, he scored five league goals (including against rivals Al Quwa Al Jawiya) and shone in the Umm Al Ma'arak Cup, scoring in all three group games and starting in the final as Al Shorta retained their title. However, it was the 2002-03 season where Ahmad really came into his own.

With Hashim Ridha moving abroad, the space opened up for Ahmad to become Al Shorta's key man and he did exactly that. He helped the side win the Umm Al Ma'arak Cup for the third time in a row, and also scored in the Iraqi FA Cup semi-final as Al Shorta finished as runners-up. But most importantly, he was Al Shorta's top scorer with 19 goals as the Harps claimed their third league title of the Premier League era, finishing ahead of Al Najaf at the top of the table by three points with 65 points from 27 games, scoring against the likes of Al Zawraa. He also scored in Al Shorta's successful Al Quds International Championship campaign that season and scored in the Harps' 2003 Arab Champions League journey.

Ahmad moved abroad after that season before returning to Iraq in the latter stages of his career to play for clubs such as Al Talaba, Duhok, Amanat Baghdad, Al Sulaimaniya and Al Kahrabaa. At international level, he will forever be remembered as the man who scored Iraq's last penalty in the 2007 AFC Asian Cup semi-final shootout as Iraq upset South Korea to reach the final which they eventually won to claim their first ever Asian Cup title.

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