



Al Shorta's Greatest Moments - Number 39: Aliyat Al Shorta defeat China national team (1972)



On 16 December 1972, Aliyat Al Shorta played a friendly match against the Chinese national football team. China were on a visit to Baghdad at the time and had played a game against Al Quwa Al Jawiya just two days earlier.

The first half was fairly dull until the 40th minute when Aliyat Al Shorta took the lead through Mudhafar Nouri's fantastic shot, cleverly assisted by strike partner Sabah Hatem.

Aliyat Al Shorta's performance improved in the second half and they should have ran away with the game but Mohammed Matar and Ghanim Abdul Hamid both missed gilt-edged chances for the violets and the game ended 1-0.

When you consider that China almost became Asia's best team four years later when they finished third at the 1976 AFC Asian Cup, the fact that a club side managed to dominate and defeat a national football team in such a fashion is very impressive and shows just how strong of a team the Police Machinery were at the time. The match has not been forgotten by Al Shorta fans since and most likely won't be for a very long time.

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