



Al Shorta's Greatest Players - Number 40:

Mahdi Kamil



Mahdi Kamil Shiltagh, born on 6 January 1995, started his youth career as a 10 year-old at Al Quwa Al Jawiya before joining Al Shorta in 2009 and moving up to the first team in 2011 at just 16. The "Iraqi Gianfranco Zola" spent most of the 2011-12 season on the bench but came into his own in the 2012-13 campaign, becoming one of the team's most crucial players.

He scored his first two goals for the club in two of the team's most important games that season, netting in a 4-3 win over Duhok and a 1-1 draw against Erbil. The midfielder started the last game of the season against Al Talaba, which the Harps won 3-0 to secure their first league title in a decade. Mahdi then won his second title at the club the following season as the Police retained the league under the leadership of Brazilian Lorival Santos.

He scored twice in the following season and once in the 2015-16 campaign and continues to be one of the most important and loved players at the club. His loyalty to the green and white of Al Shorta is admired by many and his excellent performances at club level have earned him a starting spot in the Iraq national team. He was also part of the historic Iraq under-20 team that finished fourth at the 2013 FIFA U20 World Cup, scoring against Chile, and

has already written his name into the Al Shorta history books despite being of such a young age.

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