



Al Shorta's Greatest Players - Number 45: **Hussein Laibi**



Born in Baghdad in 1958, Hussein Laibi joined the Shorta Al Najda youth side in 1971 and two years later joined fellow Police team Aliyat Al Shorta. Despite his young age, he excelled with the Violets and was rewarded with his first national team call-up in 1976 at just 18 years old, making his debut alongside Iraq great Hussein Saeed against Saudi Arabia.

In 1977, Hussein Laibi's reputation was further enhanced as he scored in the AFC Youth Championship final as Iraq beat rivals Iran to take home the title, and a year later he was Al Shorta's second highest scorer behind Ali Kadhim as the Harps won their second Arab Police Championship title, cementing his place in the 'Al Qeetharah' history books.

In 1979, Hussein decided to move to Al Quwa Al Jawiya where he spent the remaining ten years of his career, picking up 15 caps for the senior national team in total, and the forward's retirement match was played between Al Shorta and Al Quwa Al Jawiya in 1989, citing Al Shorta's legendary coach Abdul-Kadir Zeinal as the biggest influence on his successful career. He later became the assistant manager of Baghdad club Al Naft.

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