



Al Shorta's Greatest Players - Number 7:

Raad Hammoudi



Alongside the likes of Lateef Shandal, Emad Hashim and Ali Husain Jalil, Raad Hammoudi can lay claim to being one of, if not the most, legendary goalkeepers in the long, rich history of 'Al Qeetharah'.

Raad started his career in 1972 when he joined second division side Kuliya Al Shorta (Police Academy). He won the Iraqi Second Division there in 1973-74 before the club merged with the other Police teams including Shorta Al Najda and Aliyat Al Shorta to form the Al Shorta Sports Club we know today.

After the departure of Abid Kadhim, Raad Hammoudi, who had become Al Shorta's number one 'keeper, was named as Al Shorta's captain. He became the first goalkeeper in history to score a goal in the Iraqi Premier League when he netted a penalty in Al Shorta's 5-0 win over Al Semawah in the 1975-76 season and he won the Arab Police Championship with Al Shorta as well as captaining the side to the 1979-80 Iraqi National League title. Raad replicated his club form on the international stage, earning the goalkeeper of the tournament award during Iraq's successful 1979 Gulf Cup campaign and also being the main goalkeeper when they won the gold medal at the Asian Games in 1982. He went on to play two games for Iraq in the 1986 FIFA World Cup before retiring in 1987 as arguably Al Shorta's and Iraq's greatest and most successful goalkeeper ever.

Raad never lost his love for Al Shorta though and in 2003 he became the club president, a post he held for nine years before being succeeded by the mighty Ayad Bunyan.

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