



## **AI Shorta's Greatest Players - Number 8:** **Amjad Kalaf**



Amjad Kalaf, born on 5 October 1991, arrived at AI Shorta in 2007 from AI Kut as a young striker, capable of also playing on the wing. In AI Shorta's first match of the 2007-08 season, against Al Shualah, Amjad was subbed on for the second half, making his debut for the club at the age of just 16. Within a minute, Amjad had already scored his first AI Shorta goal, and it was arguably the best one he would ever score for the club: a spectacular overhead kick. Since that game, he has never looked back. The youngster earned his first Iraq call-up in 2009 and has stayed at AI Shorta for over a decade, scoring more than 60 goals. He became the youngest ever player to captain AI Shorta in a match in 2011 at the tender age of 20.

Despite receiving many offers from both Iraq and abroad, Amjad has remained loyal to the club even through the tough times of the 2010-11 season when Amjad Kalaf's brace on the final day of the season saved AI Shorta from being relegated to the Iraqi Division 1 for the first time in their history. The only time when his loyalty came into question was when he signed for Erbil in September 2010, but just two months later he returned to AI Shorta without having played any games for Erbil, stating that his love for AI Shorta is what made it too difficult to move anywhere else.

He has won AI Shorta's top scorer award a number times and has won the Iraqi Premier League twice as well as the Baghdad Cup with the Green Harps. Not only is Amjad a prolific goalscorer, but he has also racked up many assists at the club, including two assists in the 3-0 win over Al Talaba on 4th September 2013 that secured the 2012-13 league title. Furthermore, Amjad scored AI Shorta's first two AFC Cup goals in their history and has scored goals against the likes of Erbil, Duhok, Al Talaba and Al Zawraa. He has also seen success on the international stage, scoring in the 2015 AFC Asian Cup for Iraq as his side finished fourth in the tournament, and Amjad will undoubtedly go down as one of AI Shorta's greatest and most loyal players.

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