



## Al Shorta's Greatest Players - Number 9: Ali Hussein Mahmoud



One of Al Shorta's true all-time greats, Ali Hussein Mahmoud won the Iraqi Premier League's top scorer award on two different occasions and scored two goals in the first leg of Al Shorta's Arab Champions League final in 1982.

Born in 1953, the legend started his career with second division side Kuliya Al Shorta and netted a hat-trick on his debut to book his place in the starting line-up of the team in the future. He was top scorer of the second division in 1972-73 and went on to win the second division title with Kuliya Al Shorta the following season.

When Kuliya Al Shorta were merged with the other Police teams including Aliyat Al Shorta and Shorta Al Najda to form the sports club Al Shorta, Ali Hussein Mahmoud continued to play for Al Shorta and played his first game for the new sports club against Al Jaish in a 3-1 win.

In the 1979-80 season, Ali Hussein Mahmoud scored eighteen goals in the Iraqi National League, picking up the Golden Boot award with Al Shorta winning their sixth league title. Two of those goals came in Al Shorta's final game of the season, a 3-1 win over Al Minaa that saw them overtake Al Zawraa at the top. Three years later, Ali Hussein Mahmoud further cemented his place as an Al Shorta legend by scoring both goals in a 2-0 win over Lebanese side Al Nejmeh. This was no ordinary game - it was the first leg of the inaugural Arab Champions League final in 1982. Al Shorta would go on to lift the trophy after a 2-2 draw in the second leg.

He made his debut for Iraq in 1975 in a 3-1 victory over Afghanistan and the striker represented Iraq many times in the 1970s and early 1980s. In the final game of the 1980-81 season, Ali scored a scintillating hat-trick in a victory over Al Zawraa and at the time he thought that would be enough for Al Shorta to win the league, but the Iraqi Football Association surprisingly and unfairly decided to hand the title to Al Talaba as they had more wins, even though Al Shorta had more goals scored which is the rule that was always used before and has always been used since; Al Shorta fans will never forget the controversy.

In 1983, Ali, who won the Arab Police Championship three times with Al Shorta scoring five goals across the three tournaments, left Al Shorta and joined Al Jaish where he won both the Iraqi National League and the Golden Boot yet again; he then returned to Al Shorta and then returned to Al Jaish before retiring as an all-time Al Shorta great.

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