

= Colin Doyle (footballer) =

Colin Anthony Doyle (born 12 June 1985) is an Irish professional footballer who plays as a goalkeeper for Bradford City and the Republic of Ireland national team . Doyle spent twelve years as a professional with Birmingham City . He made his debut in the Football League in April 2005 while on loan to Championship club Nottingham Forest , and also had loan spells at Chester City , Millwall and Coventry City . In 2015 , he signed for Blackpool .

At international level , Doyle has represented the Republic of Ireland at under @-@ 21 , B and senior levels . He made his full international debut in May 2007 against Ecuador .

= = Club career = =

= = = Early career = = =

Doyle was born in Cork , County Cork . He played both Gaelic football and hurling with his local club , Douglas , before taking up association football with Cork side Douglas Hall . He joined Birmingham City as an academy scholar during 2001 , before signing his first professional contract in 2003 . He made his first senior appearance for the club during the 4 ? 0 victory over the Malaysian national team during the first Premier League Asia Trophy on 26 July 2003 , replacing Ian Bennett with 13 minutes of the game remaining .

Having not yet made a professional appearance for Birmingham , Doyle joined League Two side Chester City on loan in October 2004 . Chester 's first @-@ choice goalkeeper Wayne Brown was injured and they needed cover for reserve Chris Mackenzie . While at Chester , Doyle played his first game in English senior football as Chester defeated Rochdale in the Football League Trophy .

After returning to Birmingham , Doyle soon linked up with Championship club Nottingham Forest on a short @-@ term loan deal in December 2004 . The loan was then extended to keep him at the City Ground for the rest of the season . Doyle made his first @-@ team debut for Forest in a fifth @-@ round FA Cup tie against Tottenham Hotspur on 20 February 2005 . As the game approached half @-@ time , Doyle gifted Tottenham the lead as a Jermain Defoe free kick bounced out of his hands and into the net , but Forest were able to equalise in the second half to take the tie to a replay . Even though Doyle only played in a further three league games for Forest , he said he was glad to be able to play regular reserve @-@ team football and the loan spell had exceeded his expectations . He was rumoured to be returning to Forest on loan for the following season , a move which did not occur .

Doyle 's next loan move saw him join Millwall in November 2005 for a month . He went straight into the team for their game against Leeds United on 26 November . With the game goalless going into injury time , Millwall defender Ben May put the ball past Doyle for an own goal to give Leeds a 1 ? 0 victory . Doyle was recalled from loan on 19 December to cover for the suspended Nico Vaesen . Doyle was on the bench for Birmingham 's Football League Cup quarter @-@ final against Manchester United the next day , and then returned to Millwall three days later on an emergency seven @-@ day loan . This loan deal was extended for another seven days before Doyle returned to Birmingham on 5 January 2006 after manager Steve Bruce had refused Millwall permission to use him in the FA Cup . A week later , Doyle agreed to go to Millwall for a third loan spell in the 2005 ? 06 season , this time staying with " The Lions " until the end of the season . In total , Doyle played 14 games for Millwall during his three loan spells , keeping two clean sheets .

= = = First @-@ team football with Birmingham = = =

During his loan spell at Millwall , Doyle had suggested he might want to stay with the club on a permanent basis , despite the offer of a new contract from his parent club . However , at the end of the season he signed a two @-@ year deal with Birmingham . Because Vaesen 's contract had expired , there was an expectation that Doyle would step up to second @-@ choice goalkeeper

behind Maik Taylor . Doyle played his first competitive game for Birmingham in their League Cup first @-@ round match against Shrewsbury Town on 22 August 2006 , in which he kept a clean sheet as his club won 1 ? 0 . With Taylor injured , Doyle made his first league appearance for Birmingham four days later in a 2 ? 0 defeat away to Cardiff City . Doyle played in the second and third rounds of the League Cup , against Wrexham and Sheffield United ,

Doyle was preferred to Taylor for the visit to Colchester United in February 2007 ; according to the Birmingham Mail , " Doyle was unruffled and did himself a lot of good . His handling was sound , he got the game moving quickly and even though some of his kicks were skewed wide , he whacked the ball long and hard . " Assistant manager Eric Black said that Doyle had " shown that he 's more than capable and he 's ready to have a go now and challenge Maik Taylor " for the starting position . He kept his place in the team for the remainder of the season as Birmingham were promoted back to the Premier League . At the club 's end of season awards , Doyle picked up the " Magic Moment of the Season " award , for his penalty save against Wolverhampton Wanderers at Molineux that gained Birmingham a crucial three points , and the " Breakthrough " award . Doyle finished the season with eight clean sheets from 22 appearances .

He remained in the starting line @-@ up for the start of the 2007 ? 08 Premier League season , but after a difficult first three games , he was dropped in favour of Taylor , and Richard Kingson was selected as substitute goalkeeper . Birmingham were relegated at the end of the season but won immediate promotion back to the Premier League the following season ; Doyle played in two league games .

= = = Return to second choice = = =

Following the loan signing of Joe Hart from Manchester City for the 2009 ? 10 Premier League season , Doyle remained third choice , behind Hart and Taylor , a position he retained after Hart 's replacement by England international Ben Foster and Taylor 's signing of a contract extension before the 2010 ? 11 season .

On 29 July 2010 , Doyle had a trial with Plymouth Argyle , playing 45 minutes of a friendly against Hereford United , but no deal materialised , and on 10 August 2010 , Doyle signed on loan for Coventry City . He was signed as emergency cover while Keiren Westwood was away on international duty , coming in for the League Cup match against Morecambe , but was recalled only a day later because of an injury to Foster . In January 2011 , Doyle played his first game for Birmingham for nearly two years in a 3 ? 2 defeat of Coventry in the FA Cup fourth round , and kept his place for the fifth @-@ round tie against Sheffield Wednesday , keeping a clean sheet as the home side won 3 ? 0 . He made his first Premier League appearance since August 2007 , as a first @-@ half substitute for the injured Foster , in a 5 ? 0 defeat at Liverpool in April in which he conceded three goals .

After Birmingham were relegated at the end of the season , the club took up their option of an extra year on Doyle 's contract , despite accusations of inappropriate late @-@ night drinking after the club 's end @-@ of @-@ season dinner . He made 16 appearances in the 2011 ? 12 season , including three matches in Birmingham 's UEFA Europa League campaign , and both legs of the Championship play @-@ off semi @-@ final . He made an error in a 2 ? 1 win over Maribor , where he misjudged a pass from Jonathan Spector to allow Dalibor Vola? to score the game 's opening goal . In the FA Cup , Doyle saved two penalties from Juan Mata in the FA Cup ; one in the initial fifth @-@ round match , which finished 1 ? 1 , and one in the replay , which ended in a 2 ? 0 defeat . His performance in the initial game against Chelsea resulted in him being named as the man of the match . At the end of the season , he received a special award for completing ten senior seasons with the club , extended to an eleventh when he signed a one @-@ year contract , despite expectations that youngster Jack Butland might be first choice goalkeeper .

Doyle made his first appearance of the 2012 ? 13 season in a 3 ? 2 League Cup defeat at Coventry City . Despite only playing three games during the 2012 ? 13 season , Doyle was offered a new two @-@ year contract at the end of the season .

In July 2013 , Doyle was brought on as a centre forward for the last six minutes of a pre @-@

season game against Shamrock Rovers because of an injury to striker Matt Green after all the outfield substitutes had been used . Again , he made his first competitive appearance of the season in the League Cup . In the 2014 ? 15 season , he played three cup matches and once in the league , putting in an impressive performance in a 1 ? 0 defeat at Blackburn Rovers when Darren Randolph was suspended . He was released when his contract expired at the end of his twelfth season as a professional with Birmingham City . The Birmingham Mail dubbed his departure the " end of an era " .

== Blackpool ==

In June 2015 , Doyle signed a two @-@ year contract with Blackpool , newly relegated to League One . He was named club captain , and selected as starting goalkeeper , ahead of Kyle Letheren , for the opening match of the season , away to Colchester United . He made several saves to keep his side in the match , but damaged a shoulder in thwarting Colchester 's Gavin Massey and had to leave the field . After an initial prognosis of three months out , a scan suggested he could return to action within a month . He was back in the team for the visit to Scunthorpe United on 5 September , and produced a man @-@ of @-@ the @-@ match performance that earned him a place in the Football League 's Team of the Week as Blackpool won their first match of the season . Ankle ligament damage suffered in early November kept him out until the new year .

== Bradford City ==

Following Blackpool 's relegation , Doyle joined League One side Bradford City for a fee of £ 1 after Bradford triggered a release clause in Doyle 's contract .

== International career ==

In August 2006 , Doyle played for the Republic of Ireland under @-@ 21s away against Greece and kept a clean sheet in a 2 ? 0 victory . He went on to make three further appearances for the U21 side . He made his first appearance for the senior national team , starting in a 1 ? 1 friendly draw with Ecuador , on 23 May 2007 . The match was at Giants Stadium in East Rutherford , New Jersey . Following this match , he made an appearance for the Republic of Ireland B squad , playing 81 minutes of a match against Scotland B on 20 November 2007 .

== Club statistics ==

As of match played 8 May 2016