

= Alex Rhodes (footballer) =

Alexander Graham " Alex " Rhodes (born 23 January 1982) is an English professional footballer who plays for Isthmian League Premier Division side Margate . He predominantly plays as a left winger but also as a striker .

Rhodes started his career with Eastern Counties League Premier Division side Newmarket Town , where he came to prominence after scoring hat @-@ tricks in three successive games in 2003 . Rhodes scored 20 goals in the early part of the 2003 / 04 season , including 14 goals in 11 games in the league . After trials with several Football League clubs , he joined Brentford in November 2003 and scored the goal that ensured they were not relegated six months later . Rhodes scored five goals during his four seasons at Brentford , which were hampered by injury and included loan spells at Swindon Town and Grays Athletic . He signed for Bradford City in August 2007 but was released after one season , before joining Rotherham United . A loan spell at Woking was followed by his release from Rotherham in May 2009 , when he dropped back out of the Football League to join Oxford United . He played just four games before leaving Oxford by mutual consent , and moved to Braintree Town , initially on a short @-@ term deal . Rhodes rejoined Grays Athletic in January 2010 , but was released at the end of the 2009 ? 10 season .

= = Personal life = =

Alex Rhodes was born on 23 January 1982 in Cambridge , Cambridgeshire . He first attended a football game at his hometown side Cambridge United but grew up as a Liverpool fan . As well as football , he played cricket as a youngster . Rhodes is nicknamed " Tiger " , because of his likeness to golfer Tiger Woods .

Rhodes had a tattoo of a 142 @-@ word quotation inked onto his leg in November 2008 ; the passage was originally written by peace activist Marian Williamson . It took five hours to inscribe onto Rhodes ' leg . Rhodes said he had the tattoo done because " I had a few knock @-@ backs when I was younger , when people were telling me I was too small , but I ? ve always been determined to prove them wrong and I just feel this quotation is appropriate for me and my life . "

= = Career = =

= = = Newmarket Town = = =

Rhodes started his football career at non @-@ League side Newmarket Town , breaking into the club 's youth team at the age of 17 . He combined his early years at the club with work as a coach at Cambridge Regional College . During the 2002 ? 03 season , Rhodes scored more than 30 goals . He continued his goal @-@ scoring form the following season and three successive hat @-@ tricks in September 2003 attracted the attention of league scouts , including Norwich City , Cambridge United and Yeovil Town . He scored 21 goals for Newmarket in the Eastern Counties League during the first four months of the 2003 ? 04 season . After trials with Yeovil , Norwich and Ipswich Town , Rhodes signed with Brentford in November 2003 for £ 10 @,@ 000 . It was the first time Brentford had paid a transfer fee for a player since Jean @-@ Philippe Javary three years earlier , with the money donated by the club 's fans . In his final game with Newmarket , he scored a hat @-@ trick in a 4 ? 3 victory against Great Yarmouth Town .

= = = Brentford = = =

Rhodes made his Brentford debut on Boxing Day 2003 in a 2 ? 1 defeat to Bristol City but had to wait more than four months for his second game . He scored his first senior goal in his third game to ensure Brentford avoided relegation from the Second Division when they defeated Bournemouth 1 ? 0 .

Rhodes returned to Newmarket Town for a pre @-@ season friendly game with Brentford in August 2004 , during which he scored a hat @-@ trick in a 5 ? 0 win . It helped him to win a place in the first team , and he scored on the first day of the 2004 ? 05 season when Brentford lost 3 ? 1 to Chesterfield . It was not until November 2004 that he scored his second goal in another defeat ? 2 ? 1 to Bradford City . Five days later , he scored the winning penalty against Bristol City to take Brentford through to the second round of the FA Cup . In December , Rhodes scored in successive games , first in the league against Sheffield Wednesday , then another penalty in the FA Cup as Brentford 's 2 ? 1 victory against Hinckley United set up a third round tie with Luton Town . He was unable to play in the third round tie after he suffered a serious knee injury against Walsall which kept him out of action for the rest of the season . Although Rhodes had been a regular in the Brentford squad , his 22 league games included just four starts .

Injury again hit Rhodes ' 2005 ? 06 season , during which he scored just one goal in a 2 ? 1 victory over Yeovil Town . He started just five league games during the season , as Brentford reached the League One play @-@ offs . Rhodes started the second leg of the play @-@ off semi @-@ finals but a 2 ? 0 defeat to Swansea City denied them a place in the final .

He made 11 appearances for Brentford at the start of the 2006 ? 07 season , but on 10 October 2006 , Rhodes signed for League Two side Swindon Town on a month 's loan deal . He made his debut for Swindon against Grimsby Town , when he had a goal disallowed . Rhodes played just four games for Swindon all as substitute without scoring before returning to Brentford , before being immediately placed on the transfer list by Brentford manager Scott Fitzgerald . Rhodes played another three games for Brentford and had a trial with Yeovil Town in January 2007 but stayed with Brentford . In March 2007 , he was loaned out again , to Conference side Grays Athletic for seven weeks . He played 12 league games and twice in the FA Trophy during his spell at Grays , scoring once in each competition , before he returned to Brentford in time to play in their final game of the season . Rhodes was offered a new contract by new Brentford manager Terry Butcher but turned it down and left the club on 25 June 2007 . He played 65 games in all competitions for Brentford , but two @-@ thirds of those were as substitute , scoring just six goals .

= = = Bradford City = = =

After trials with League Two sides Darlington and Bradford City , Rhodes signed for the latter on a short @-@ term deal . He made his debut in City 's first game of the season when they drew 1 ? 1 with Macclesfield Town in a team featuring six new players . He scored his first goal in a 2 ? 1 win over Chester City on 6 November 2007 . He extended his stay at Bradford City until the end of the season in January 2008 . Despite signing a new contract , injury kept Rhodes out of the side at the start of 2008 until 23 February when he scored his second Bradford goal in a 3 ? 1 victory at Notts County after coming on as substitute . His performance in the Notts County victory earned him a place in the starting side three days later when he again scored in a 3 ? 2 win against Rotherham United . On 29 April , he was one of 13 players released by manager Stuart McCall . Rhodes played a total of 30 games for Bradford , but started only 11 of those , scoring three goals .

= = = Rotherham United = = =

In June 2008 , Rhodes returned to League Two , when he signed a one @-@ year deal with Rotherham United , after their manager Mark Robins was impressed by Rhodes ' performance against them the previous season . Rotherham were deducted 17 points at the start of the 2008 ? 09 season because of improperly exiting administration . They started the season with a 1 ? 0 against Lincoln City , in which Rhodes made his debut before he was substituted in the second half . He scored his first goal for Rotherham in a League Cup first round tie against local rivals Sheffield Wednesday at Hillsborough on 12 August 2008 . Rhodes ' goal came only seconds after Wednesday had opened the scoring , before the game finished 2 ? 2 . Rotherham eventually won through to the second round on penalties . His first league goal for the club came less than two weeks later as Rotherham beat Chester City 3 ? 1 to maintain their winning start to the season .

Rhodes was a regular in the Rotherham side at the start of the season as the team overhauled their point deduction to go above Grimsby Town in the league , but he was dropped for a game against his former side Bradford City in November 2008 . He briefly returned to the side the following month for a Football League Trophy area semi @-@ final with Darlington , which Rotherham won on penalties , but did not play again until the two sides met once more in a league game at the end of January 2009 .

It was only a brief return to the side and two months later Rhodes joined Conference National side Woking on loan for the rest of the season . His debut for Woking came two days later in the club 's 1 ? 1 draw with Wrexham , with Rhodes being substituted towards the end of the second half by Joel Ledgister . He played three games for Woking , scoring one goal . Rhodes returned to Rotherham but was released by the club having played 18 games and scoring four goals during his one season stay .

= = = Return to non @-@ League = = =

Having been released , Rhodes returned to the Conference by joining Oxford United on a free transfer in May 2009 . Rhodes made his Oxford debut in their opening game of the season against York City as a second @-@ half substitute for Jack Midson to help his team come from 1 ? 0 down to win 2 ? 1 . However , after he had played just four games , Rhodes left by mutual consent .

Rhodes immediately joined Conference South side Braintree Town , initially on a contract until the start of January . His new assistant manager Jason Broom described Rhodes as an " exciting " talent . He made his debut against St Albans City helping to create his new side 's goal in a 1 ? 1 draw . Rhodes failed to impress and was released after Christmas 2009 .

Rhodes rejoined former club Grays Athletic , where he had played on loan in 2007 , on 19 January 2010 . He scored a goal on his debut in a hastily arranged friendly , after their league game with Kidderminster Harriers was postponed , later in the week during a 4 ? 1 victory against Aveley . Rhodes ' senior debut came at the end of the same week , when he was one of six new members of manager Julian Dicks ' side , only for them to lose 4 ? 0 to Rhodes ' former team Oxford United . Rhodes was substituted by Harry Agombar during the second half . He was released at the end of the 2009 ? 10 season , having made 15 appearances .

Rhodes instead started to train with A.F.C. Sudbury and played in a pre @-@ season friendly against Bury Town , during which he scored to help Sudbury win 4 ? 3 . However , although Rhodes said he would like to join the semi @-@ professional Isthmian League Division One North side , he wanted to keep his options open in case he could remain in the professional game . A week later , he was given a trial with League Two Hereford United . Instead , the following week , Rhodes signed for Isthmian League Premier Division side Canvey Island and immediately went into the first @-@ team to make his debut on 28 August in a home league match against Carshalton Athletic , which finished 1 ? 1 , with Rhodes close to scoring what would have been a late winning goal for his new club . Rhodes ' first goals for Canvey Island came in a FA Cup first round qualifying match against Newport Pagnell Town , scoring twice in a 4 ? 1 victory . He scored again in the next round to put Canvey into the third qualifying round . Rhodes signed a contract to keep him with the club until the end of the season and scored two more in Canvey 's ultimate exit from the FA Cup .

= = Playing statistics = =

Updated to 10 December 2011 .