

= Darren O 'Dea =

Darren O 'Dea (born 4 February 1987) is an Irish professional footballer who plays as a centre @-@ back for Scottish Premiership club Dundee .

O 'Dea began his career on the youth team of Celtic , with whom he played from 2006 to 2012 . During his time on Celtic , he was loaned to Reading , Ipswich Town and Leeds United . While playing for Leeds , O 'Dea won the Ireland Young International Player of the Year Award . For more first @-@ team opportunities he switched clubs and countries , joining Toronto FC of Major League Soccer for a year until 2013 . The following season , he represented FC Metalurh Donetsk in Ukraine . O 'Dea 's stint was cut short due to the Ukrainian political situation , and he returned to England with Blackpool . In July 2015 , he signed with Indian Super League club Mumbai City FC .

After being capped by the youth national teams of the Republic of Ireland , O 'Dea made his senior @-@ team debut in 2009 and has been capped 20 times . He represented Ireland at the 2012 UEFA European Championship .

= = Club career = =

= = = Celtic = = =

Born in Dublin , O 'Dea played for Home Farm before he was signed by Celtic as a teenager . After making his way through the reserves and academy side , he made his first @-@ team debut for Celtic in the Scottish League Cup against St Mirren in September 2006 . A month later , O 'Dea made his league debut against Inverness Caledonian Thistle , where he played the last thirty minutes after substituting for Gary Caldwell . His UEFA Champions League debut was on 6 December against Danish club F.C. Copenhagen as a substitute for the injured Stephen McManus . O 'Dea made his first league starting appearance against Dunfermline Athletic four days after his Champions League debut . Later that month he scored his first goal in a match against Dundee United , with his rebound of a 78th @-@ minute free kick by Shunsuke Nakamura tying the match 2 ? 2 . O 'Dea 's first season saw Celtic win the 2007 Scottish Cup Final , where he scored a goal against Livingston .

After playing 16 times for Celtic , O 'Dea signed a three @-@ year contract in March 2007 and considered it a " reward for the hard work " he had done . In his second season he incorporated Celtic win the league championship , although he did not feature in the final against Dundee . After O 'Dea did not play for two months (since his last Champions League match against FC Spartak Moscow) , the BBC reported in October that he would be recalled to the injury @-@ plagued team as a replacement for Gary Caldwell , and he played the entire league match against Rangers on 20 October 2007 . That season , he primarily played centre @-@ back .

During the 2008 ? 09 season O 'Dea made a total of sixteen appearances , scoring twice . His extra @-@ time goal in the 2009 Scottish League Cup Final gave Celtic the trophy . After playing fifty times for the club , O 'Dea was loaned to championship club Reading in September 2009 for more first @-@ team experience and he called it a " massive chance " to represent Celtic . He made his debut in a 0 ? 0 draw against Doncaster Rovers , with his second @-@ half shot saved by Doncaster goalkeeper Neil Sullivan . In a September interview , O 'Dea was reluctant to return to Celtic 's few match opportunities .

Returning from Reading in January 2010 , he started all five games that month . O 'Dea was appointed stand @-@ in captain after Stephen McManus went on loan to Middlesbrough and Gary Caldwell left for Wigan . Again superfluous on Celtic , he was loaned to Ipswich Town on 18 August 2010 until January 2011 and made his Ipswich debut against Crystal Palace on 21 August . In January O 'Dea said he was uncertain if his loan would be extended because of the sacking of Ipswich manager Roy Keane , expressing his desire to stay . New manager Paul Jewell unexpectedly extended his loan to the end of the season . Vital Football praised O 'Dea 's performance in a league cup match against Arsenal , with Jewell calling it " tremendous and crucial

in the result " . Two months later , he expressed a desire to return to Celtic instead of signing permanently with Ipswich . O 'Dea said he would play for another club if he did not have first @-@ team opportunities at Celtic , since he felt that playing was " not about sitting on a bench " .

In May 2011 , he said he " may quit Celtic " to play regularly and represent the national team at the 2012 UEFA Euro qualifiers . The following month Leeds United signed him on loan until the end of the season , and he said his objective on his new club was to win promotion to Premier League . O 'Dea made his Leeds debut in a 3 ? 1 loss to Southampton . He scored his first goal for the club against Coventry City , an " angled shot " for a 1 ? 1 draw . O 'Dea again found the net in the next game , against Peterborough United , in the 95th minute for a 3 ? 2 win . Against Cardiff City , according to the BBC Leeds conceded a goal due to O 'Dea 's " indecision " which " opened the door for Joe Mason " . In a January 2012 interview he expressed his desire to sign permanently with Leeds , although he received a red card in a loss to Blackpool . O 'Dea played 38 times for Leeds , scoring twice . Due to his form with Leeds and Ireland , O 'Dea and teammate Aidy White were nominated for the Young International Player of the Year at the Football Association of Ireland International Football Awards . He won the award in a ceremony held in February 2012 .

After spending the previous two seasons out on loan , O 'Dea was released by Celtic at the end of his contract on 1 June 2012 despite a one @-@ year contract @-@ extension option . He said he " had a great time at Celtic and have a lot of friends there so it was important for me that I left properly " .

= = = Toronto FC = = =

O 'Dea signed with Major League Soccer club Toronto FC on 3 August 2012 , and made his club debut on 18 August in a 1 ? 0 home loss to Sporting Kansas City . According to CBC News , he looked " lively " in his first match with the team . In a match against Houston Dynamo he passed to Terry Dunfield , who scored , and at the end of the game said he was " delighted " with the result . Manager Paul Mariner named O 'Dea team captain in September , succeeding the injured Torsten Frings . The following month , he was unable to play a match against Montreal Impact due to a thigh injury sustained during World Cup qualifying play for Ireland . In O 'Dea 's first season for Toronto , he played nine times as Toronto finished tenth in the Eastern Conference . O 'Dea was employed at left back for the 2013 season after the regular player at that position was injured . According to him , it had been two years since he had previously played left back . O 'Dea scored his first goal for Toronto on 3 July 2013 in a 3 ? 3 home draw with Canadian rivals Montreal Impact . Because of his " keen sense of positioning and timing " against Sporting Kansas City , he was named to the Team of the Week for 12 March . Originally part of a transfer (a " win @-@ win for both parties " , according to head coach Ryan Nelsen , since O 'Dea was the highest @-@ paid player in the league) , he was released by Toronto on 18 July 2013 to sign with FC Metalurh Donetsk . Club president Kevin Payne wished him luck and hoped he would return in the future . O 'Dea played a total of 26 times for Toronto , scoring one goal and setting up three , and was succeeded as team captain by Steven Caldwell .

= = = Metalurh Donetsk = = =

After his release from Toronto O 'Dea signed a three @-@ year contract with Ukraine 's FC Metalurh Donetsk . He debuted for the team in a July 20 , 2013 1 ? 1 draw with FC Karpaty Lviv , playing 46 minutes before being substituted . O 'Dea scored his first goal for Metalurh in his second game , a 2 ? 1 away win over Vorskla Poltava . He left the club in August 2014 , terminating his contract two years early due to the unrest in Ukraine . O 'Dea described the situation in the country as " hostile and intense , but also surreal " .

= = = Blackpool = = =

O 'Dea then signed with championship club Blackpool in December 2014 , making his debut in a 6

? 1 loss to Bournemouth . Bournemouth 's fourth goal was scored by Brett Pitman , converting a penalty shot incurred by O 'Dea (who fouled Callum Wilson in the penalty area) . Against Wolverhampton Wanderers , the BBC reported that he " got into a terrible muddle trying to cut out a pass from Kevin McDonald " and allowed Benik Afobe (in his first game for Wolverhampton) to score the second goal . O 'Dea was injured in a match against Nottingham Forest in February 2015 , forcing him to miss the game with Blackburn Rovers . Released when his contract expired in May , he said the club had a " disastrous season " . O 'Dea played 20 times for Blackpool .

= = = Mumbai City = = =

Although the Toronto Sun reported in May 2015 that O 'Dea might re @-@ sign with the city 's MLS club , he signed a contract until 22 December with Indian Super League club Mumbai City FC , managed by Nicolas Anelka . Calling his signing " a new experience , a new chapter " , he said he knew little about the quality of football in the league . O 'Dea made his ISL debut on 10 October , starting in a goalless draw at Kerala Blasters . He left the club after making nine appearances .

= = = Dundee = = =

O 'Dea signed a short @-@ term contract with Dundee in January 2016 . On 22 March 2016 , he signed a new three @-@ year contract .

= = International career = =

After playing for the Irish under @-@ 19 and under @-@ 21 teams , O 'Dea was called up to the international squad within a year . Promoted to the Irish under @-@ 21 international squad by manager Don Givens on 3 March 2007 , he was the team captain . Less than a week later , O 'Dea was named to the international squad for Ireland 's UEFA Euro 2008 qualifying Group D matches on 24 and 28 March .

On 13 May 2008 , he was listed on Giovanni Trapattoni 's first squad as Ireland 's manager for the 2010 FIFA World Cup qualification ? UEFA Group 8 matches against Bulgaria and Italy . O 'Dea made his senior @-@ team debut on 8 September 2009 in a 1 ? 0 friendly win over South Africa at Thomond Park in Limerick as a 60th @-@ minute substitute for Paul McShane .

After a match against the Czech Republic , O 'Dea said he dreamed of being named to the Irish squad for UEFA Euro 2012 . Although he was on the roster for the tournament in Poland and Ukraine , he did not appear ; the Irish were eliminated from the group stage . O 'Dea scored his first senior goal for Ireland , an 88th @-@ minute header , in a World Cup qualifying match against the Faroe Islands on 16 October 2012 which Ireland won 4 ? 1 .

= = Playing style = =

O 'Dea 's manager at Toronto FC , Paul Mariner , described him as a " different specimen " with " fantastic habits " and a good leader . According to Milo? Koci? , he is a good defender of set pieces .

= = Career statistics = =

As of 23 July 2016

= = Honours = =

= = = Club = = =

Celtic

Scottish Premier League : 2006 ? 07 , 2007 ? 08

Scottish League Cup : 2008 ? 09

Scottish Cup : 2006 ? 07

International

Nations Cup : 2011

= = = Individual = = =

Ireland Young International Player of the Year Award 2012