

= Michael Coulson (footballer) =

Michael James Coulson (born 4 April 1988) is an English professional footballer who plays as a winger or a striker for Scottish Premiership club St Johnstone .

Coulson started his career with hometown club Scarborough , making his first @-@ team debut in a Conference National match in 2004 . His first goal for the club , scored later that year , made him the youngest goalscorer in the club 's history . He signed for Championship side Barnsley in 2006 , before making a return to Conference Premier football with a loan at Northwich Victoria in 2007 . Coulson suffered two cruciate ligament injuries in the space of a year before being loaned to Chester City of the Conference in 2009 . Coulson joined League Two side Grimsby Town on loan later that year , signing for the club permanently in 2010 after their relegation to the Conference . He left Grimsby in 2012 , signing for newly promoted League Two team York City . In 2016 , after four years with York , Coulson signed for Scottish Premiership side St Johnstone .

= = Club career = =

= = = Scarborough = = =

Born in Scarborough , North Yorkshire , Coulson started his career in the youth system of his hometown club Scarborough at the age of nine . In April 2004 , he went on trial with Premier League side Everton , playing in a youth academy game against Liverpool . Coulson captained the Scarborough under @-@ 19 team that won the Northern Alliance League title in the 2003 ? 04 season . He made his first @-@ team debut as a 16 @-@ year @-@ old after coming on as a 79th minute substitute against Accrington Stanley in a 4 ? 0 Conference National victory on 23 October 2004 , making him the second youngest player in Scarborough 's history . Coulson became Scarborough 's youngest goalscorer after he scored an equalising goal against Tamworth in a 2 ? 2 draw on 15 March 2005 with 10 minutes of the game remaining . He signed a one @-@ year professional contract with Scarborough on 5 April 2005 and finished 2004 ? 05 , his first in senior football , with two goals in 14 appearances .

During pre @-@ season Scarborough manager Nick Henry stated his hope that Coulson , along with fellow youngster Ryan Blott , would fill the gap left by some high @-@ profile departures in the summer . His first goal of 2005 ? 06 came after scoring an 87th @-@ minute equaliser in a 1 ? 1 draw away at Altrincham on 20 September 2005 , having entered the game as a second @-@ half substitute . He went on trial with League One Barnsley in January 2006 and the following month manager Andy Ritchie expressed his desire to sign Coulson in the summer . Despite this , Coulson decided against extending his trial at Barnsley , opting to return to the Scarborough team to help their fight against relegation . He finished the season seven goals from 33 appearances as Scarborough were relegated to the Conference North and was awarded the club 's annual Players ' Player of the Year and Fans ' Player of the Year awards .

= = = Barnsley = = =

Coulson was signed by Barnsley on a two @-@ year contract on 4 July 2006 , following their promotion to the Championship . Ritchie described him as a " good young , raw talent who I am sure will develop into a fine addition to our squad " . His debut came in Barnsley 's 2 ? 2 draw away at Blackpool in the League Cup on 22 August 2006 , which Barnsley went on to win 4 ? 2 in a penalty shoot @-@ out , and was booked during the match for a collision with Blackpool goalkeeper Rhys Evans . He scored his first Barnsley goal with a close range header in the third minute of stoppage time against Southend United in the FA Cup third round on 6 January 2007 , making the score 1 ? 1 . He finished 2006 ? 07 with one goal in six appearances .

He joined Conference Premier side Northwich Victoria on a one @-@ month loan on 31 August 2007 to provide cover for the injured Lee Steele . He made his debut on 4 September 2007 in a 2 ?

0 defeat at home to Burton Albion , in which he came close to scoring but goalkeeper Kevin Poole and defender John Brayford blocked his efforts on goal . His first goal for Northwich came with the side 's only goal in a 3 ? 1 home defeat to Histon , before being substituted in the 79th minute with a calf strain . Coulson returned to Barnsley after the loan expired on 30 September 2007 , despite caretaker manager Paul Warhurst having convinced him to stay at Northwich for another month . He finished the loan with two goals in six appearances .

Coulson 's return to the Barnsley first team came on 1 January 2008 after entering a 2 ? 2 draw at home to Scunthorpe United as a half @-@ time substitute . Following this appearance , Coulson said : " I really enjoyed that chance and it has been a long time coming " . His second Barnsley goal came with the winner in an FA Cup third round 2 ? 1 victory over Blackpool on 5 January 2008 , which was his first goal at Oakwell . He made an appearance as an 80th @-@ minute substitute for match winner Kayode Odejayi in the 1 ? 0 home victory over Premier League side Chelsea in the FA Cup quarter @-@ final on 8 March 2008 . He suffered a knee injury in training on 21 April 2008 , rupturing an anterior cruciate ligament , which was expected to keep him sidelined for seven to nine months . Manager Simon Davey commented : " It 's a complete disaster for him . He 'd been coming on really well . He was the first name I looked to put on the bench " . Some consolation came after being named as Barnsley 's Young Player of the Year for 2007 ? 08 . He finished the season with 16 appearances and one goal for Barnsley .

Coulson returned to training in early November before making his return to action later that month , scoring in a reserve team game against Grimsby Town . His first @-@ team return came on 22 November 2008 after entering Barnsley 's 2 ? 1 defeat away at Preston North End as an 90th @-@ minute substitute . However , a recurrence of his knee injury in January 2009 ruled him out of action for the rest of 2008 ? 09 , which he finished with three appearances . On 16 October 2009 , Coulson signed a one @-@ month loan deal with Conference Premier side Chester City , making his debut on 17 October 2009 against Gateshead in a 1 ? 0 home victory . He scored his first goal for Chester on 7 November 2009 in a 3 ? 1 win over Grays Athletic . After Chester failed in an attempt to extend his loan he returned to Barnsley in November 2009 , having scored one goal from five appearances . However , these were later removed from the records after Chester were expelled from the Football Conference the following February as a result of the club breaching five Conference rules .

= = = Grimsby Town = = =

On 19 November 2009 , Coulson signed for League Two side Grimsby Town on an initial one @-@ month loan . He made his debut two days later after starting in a 0 ? 0 draw at Lincoln City . He scored his first goal for Grimsby on 5 December 2009 in his fourth appearance , a 1 ? 1 draw with Dagenham & Redbridge , opening the scoring in the 36th minute before Dagenham equalised in the second half . His loan was extended for a second month in December 2009 , keeping him at Grimsby until 23 January 2010 . Shortly before the loan was due to expire , Coulson 's stay at Grimsby was extended until the end of 2009 ? 10 on 19 January 2010 . He finished the season with five goals in 29 appearances for Grimsby , with the side being relegated to the Conference Premier .

Coulson was released by Barnsley at the end of the season , leaving him free to join up with Grimsby on a permanent basis , signing a two @-@ year contract on 31 May 2010 . In the third match of 2010 ? 11 against Hayes & Yeading United on 21 August 2010 , he took a kick to his ankle , which was expected to keep him out of the team for a month . He returned on 18 September 2010 after starting in a 2 ? 1 defeat at home to Fleetwood Town , but was substituted at half @-@ time . Coulson 's made a goalscoring second comeback from his ankle injury in Grimsby 's 2 ? 2 draw with Eastbourne Borough on 30 October 2010 . For the first time as a Grimsby player he scored twice in one game in a 2 ? 1 victory at home to AFC Wimbledon on 5 March 2011 , with a first half strike into the bottom left of the goal and a second half goal in the top @-@ left corner from inside the box . Coulson 's first season as a permanent Grimsby player concluded having scored nine goals in 33 appearances .

His first goal of 2011 ? 12 came with the winner in Grimsby 's 1 ? 0 away win at Forest Green

Rovers on 3 September 2011 after capitalising on a defensive mistake . Coulson was handed a one @-@ match suspension after accumulating five yellow cards , missing the game against Newport County on 19 November . He made an immediate return to the Grimsby line @-@ up , starting in their 1 ? 0 home win to League Two side Port Vale in the FA Cup first round on 22 November 2011 . His first two @-@ goal haul of the season came in a 3 ? 0 victory at home to Darlington in the FA Trophy first round on 10 December 2011 , scoring Grimsby 's first and third goals . It was announced on 23 April 2012 that Coulson had rejected a new two @-@ year contract on reduced terms with Grimsby , meaning he would leave the club at the end of the season . Having been left out of the squad for Grimsby 's final two games of the season , Coulson spoke that he was saddened by the manner of his departure , saying " It would have been nice to go out on a high " . He finished his final season at Grimsby with 52 appearances and 10 goals .

= = = York City = = =

Coulson joined newly promoted League Two club York City on a two @-@ year contract on 29 June 2012 . He scored on his debut with a long @-@ range strike away at League One Doncaster Rovers in the League Cup first round to give York a 1 ? 0 lead , with the game eventually finishing 1 ? 1 after extra time . Coulson missed York 's first penalty in the ensuing penalty shoot @-@ out , which the side went on to lose 4 ? 2 . He then played in York 's first Football League fixture since their promotion , a 3 ? 1 defeat at home to Wycombe Wanderers on 18 August 2012 . After picking up a cruciate ligament injury during York 's game against Accrington Stanley on 23 October 2012 , Coulson was expected to be out for the rest of 2012 ? 13 . However , he made his return as a 73rd @-@ minute substitute in York 's 0 ? 0 draw away to Bristol Rovers on 30 March 2013 . He finished the season with 21 appearances and five goals .

= = = St Johnstone = = =

In March 2016 , Coulson signed a pre @-@ contract deal with Scottish Premiership club St Johnstone , and would join on a two @-@ year contract in the summer .

= = International career = =

Coulson was called into the England C team on 2 September 2010 for a match against Wales but injury prevented him from making his debut . On 2 February 2012 , he received a second call up to the England C setup , being selected in the squad to face Italy in the 2011 ? 13 International Challenge Trophy on 28 February . Coulson started and so made his England C debut , playing the entire game as he and fellow winger Matty Blair played well on the flanks with the game finishing a 1 ? 1 draw .

= = Style of play = =

He can operate as a striker or as a winger on either flank . He regularly played on the right wing when playing for Grimsby . Grimsby joint @-@ manager Rob Scott noted Coulson 's desire and work rate , saying " that isn 't always evident in wingers . He does both sides of the game " . His ability to set up others has been praised , with Scott describing his assist tally for 2011 ? 12 as " excellent " . While in the Scarborough youth team he played as an attacking midfielder .

= = Personal life = =

Coulson supported Scarborough from a young age , living a short distance from the club 's ground , the McCain Stadium . He attended Graham School in Scarborough .

= = Career statistics = =

As of match played 2 April 2016 .

= = Honours = =

Individual

Scarborough Player of the Year : 2005 ? 06