

= Leo Fortune @-@ West =

Leopold Paul Osborne " Leo " Fortune @-@ West ( born 9 April 1971 ) is an English former professional footballer who played as a striker .

Fortune @-@ West started his career with Eastern Counties League side Tiptree United , and played for four more non @-@ League sides before securing a move into the Football League with Gillingham in July 1995 . He finished his first season with them as top scorer , and had several short stints with other League clubs before joining Cardiff City , where he played for three seasons . He played for the side as they achieved two promotions , but left on a free transfer .

Fortune @-@ West spent three seasons with Doncaster Rovers , winning promotion in his first , but was released in 2006 . He then moved back into non @-@ League football with Rushden & Diamonds , but soon made loan returns to the League with Torquay United and Shrewsbury Town . Fortune @-@ West joined Cambridge United in August 2007 before starting a spell on loan with York City in January 2008 . He then had spells further down the pyramid with Alfreton Town , North Ferriby United , Goole and Armthorpe Welfare .

= = Career = =

= = = Early career in non @-@ League football = = =

Fortune @-@ West was born on 9 April 1971 in Stratford , London and grew up as a supporter of Leyton Orient . He started his football career in non @-@ League football with Tiptree United in the Eastern Counties League aged 17 , with whom he played one season , filling the roles of full @-@ back , centre @-@ back and striker . He moved onto Bishop 's Stortford and joined Dartford in the season they went out of business . A period at Dagenham & Redbridge followed this before he signed for Stevenage Borough in the Football Conference in 1994 . He scored 7 goals in 17 league appearances for Stevenage in 1994 ? 95 , after which he moved into the Football League with Gillingham on 12 July 1995 . The fee of £ 5 @,@ 000 was raised for the cash @-@ strapped Kent club by its Supporters ' Club . Becoming a full @-@ time professional necessitated giving up a degree course at the University of Greenwich .

= = = Football League = = =

Fortune @-@ West 's first season at Gillingham , 1995 ? 96 , saw him score in each of his first three league matches . He was Gillingham 's top scorer with 15 goals from 45 appearances , as the club earned promotion into the Second Division as Third Division runners @-@ up . Having made eight appearances and scored three goals for Gillingham during 1996 ? 97 , he joined Leyton Orient on loan in March 1997 until the end of the season , making three appearances . He signed for Second Division side Lincoln City on a free transfer in June 1998 , and after making 11 appearances and scoring 1 goal , was loaned out to Rotherham United in the Third Division . He scored four goals in five appearances during a one @-@ month loan spell , before Brentford signed him for a £ 60 @,@ 000 fee in November 1998 . His debut for Brentford came in a 2 ? 1 away defeat to Leyton Orient on 21 November 1998 , and scored 1 goal in 15 appearances , before returning to Rotherham for a fee of £ 35 @,@ 000 in February 1999 .

He scored 8 goals in 17 appearances as Rotherham made the Third Division play @-@ offs , which saw them lose to Leyton Orient in a penalty shoot @-@ out in the semi @-@ final . The 1999 ? 2000 season saw Fortune @-@ West finish as Rotherham 's top scorer with 17 goals in 43 appearances , while the club won promotion into the Second Division as Third Division runners @-@ up . After a month into 2000 ? 01 , he joined Cardiff City of the Third Division for a fee of £ 300 @,@ 000 on 11 September 2000 . They earned promotion into the Second Division as Third Division runners @-@ up , and he scored 13 goals from 41 appearances over the season . By the end of the season , Cardiff 's rivals Swansea City were believed to be ready to make an attempt at

signing Fortune @-@ West . He scored Cardiff 's second goal in their play @-@ off semi @-@ final first leg match against Stoke City , which finished as a 2 ? 1 away victory in April 2002 . However , after featuring in a 2 ? 0 home defeat in the second leg , Cardiff missed out on making the final , losing 3 ? 2 on aggregate . He finished 2001 ? 02 with 44 appearances and 11 goals . He earned a second promotion with Cardiff in 2002 ? 03 after they won the play @-@ offs , but was released following the completion of this season , in which he made 28 appearances and scored 4 goals .

Bristol Rovers denied that they were interested in signing Fortune @-@ West in June 2003 , before Doncaster Rovers of the Third Division signed him on a two @-@ year contract . His first season with the club , 2003 ? 04 , saw him score 12 goals in 43 appearances as they won the Third Division championship , earning a place in the Second Division . During this season , he formed a strike partnership with Gregg Blundell . Fortune @-@ West suffered a knee injury caused by wear and tear to the knee joint in October 2004 , which resulted in him undergoing surgery , and he returned to the side in March 2005 . He was to be offered a new deal in April 2005 and finished the season with 7 goals in 28 appearances . The 2005 ? 06 season was his last with Doncaster , as he was released after scoring 4 goals in 33 appearances .

= = = Rushden & Diamonds and Shrewsbury Town = = =

He returned into non @-@ League football after he signed for Conference National club Rushden & Diamonds in June 2006 on a two @-@ year contract . He joined Torquay United of League Two on loan in September 2006 as cover for the injured Mickey Evans , but was recalled by Rushden due to an injury crisis in early November 2006 . He had made five appearances for Torquay . Days later , he signed for another League Two team , Shrewsbury Town , originally on a two @-@ month loan deal . His Shrewsbury debut came as a 60th @-@ minute substitute in a 2 ? 0 away defeat to Milton Keynes Dons on 18 November 2006 , after hoping he would be able to play in the FA Cup tie against Hereford United . The loan was extended to the end of 2006 ? 07 in January 2007 . Following Shrewsbury 's 2 ? 0 home win over Notts County in February 2007 , manager Gary Peters referred to Fortune @-@ West as ' Ronseal ' , as he does " exactly what it says on the tin " . His final appearance for Shrewsbury came in the 2007 League Two play @-@ off Final against Bristol Rovers at Wembley Stadium on 26 May 2007 , coming on as a substitute in the 80th @-@ minute , as Shrewsbury lost 3 ? 1 . With the season over , Fortune @-@ West returned to his parent club Rushden , who he left by mutual consent in August 2007 .

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

He signed for Conference Premier team Cambridge United in August 2007 after playing for them in a pre @-@ season friendly . He started his Cambridge career by scoring four goals in the first three matches , which included a hat @-@ trick in their 5 ? 1 home victory over Farsley Celtic on 21 August 2007 . He was named as the Conference Premier Player of the Month for August 2007 . He signed for Conference Premier rivals York City on loan until the end of 2007 ? 08 on 31 January 2008 , after which he said he was looking to sign for the club permanently in the summer . He scored on his debut , a 2 ? 0 home win over Grays Athletic after coming on as a 46th @-@ minute substitute for Richard Brodie on 9 February 2008 . He started ahead of Brodie in the following matches against Halifax Town and Histon , but struggled during these matches . Cambridge attempted to recall him from his loan in March 2008 , but league rules meant that he would not be able to return . He returned to Cambridge following the expiration of his loan spell at York in April 2008 , in which he made 13 appearances and scored 2 goals . He featured in Cambridge 's play @-@ off semi @-@ final second leg 2 ? 1 home win over Burton Albion ; this result meant the team reached the final 4 ? 3 on aggregate . He came on for the last fifteen minutes of the final against Exeter City at Wembley Stadium on 18 May 2008 , but Cambridge lost 1 ? 0 . He was released by the club in May 2008 after making 33 appearances and scoring 7 goals .

On 11 June 2008 , Fortune @-@ West joined Conference North outfit Alfreton Town on a one @-@ year contract for 2008 ? 09 . He made his debut in a 3 ? 2 home victory over Hyde United on 9

August 2008 and scored two headers late on in the following match , a 2 ? 2 away draw with Solihull Moors . He scored a 61st @-@ minute equaliser with a close range header at home to Bury Town in the FA Cup first round on 8 November 2008 , bringing the score to 2 ? 2 , which eventually finished as a 4 ? 2 victory , seeing Alfreton progress to the second round . After struggling to affirm a place in the team , he was released by Alfreton on 28 January 2009 . He signed for North Ferriby United of the Northern Premier League Premier Division , and made his debut as a 65th @-@ minute substitute in a 4 ? 0 away defeat to Nantwich Town on 28 February 2009 . Fortune @-@ West joined Northern Premier League Division One South club Goole in July 2009 , debuting in a 1 ? 1 home draw with Carlton Town on 15 August 2009 . In November 2010 , he joined Northern Counties East League Premier Division side Armthorpe Welfare . He became player @-@ manager of Armthorpe in May 2012 , following the resignation of long @-@ term boss Des Bennett . On 4 April 2013 , he resigned from his position .

= = Personal life = =

Fortune @-@ West has two nephews who are professional footballers ; Clayton Fortune and Jonathan Fortune . He married Radmila Cvijetinovic in Tower Hamlets , London in June 1996 , and the couple had a child in 2000 .

= = Career statistics = =

= = Honours = =

Doncaster Rovers  
Football League Third Division : 2003 ? 04