

= Eddie Johnson (English footballer) =

Edward William " Eddie " Johnson (born 20 September 1984) is an English former footballer , who ended his career with Portland Timbers in Major League Soccer . He was a midfielder but also played as a striker and represented his country at the under @-@ 16 , under @-@ 18 , under @-@ 19 and under @-@ 20 levels . He is now employed as under @-@ 20s manager for Dundee .

Born in Chester , Johnson began his career with Crewe Alexandra and Manchester United 's academies . He had loan spells with Royal Antwerp , Coventry City and Crewe Alexandra , before he was released by Manchester United in 2006 and joined Bradford City , where he played 64 league games in two seasons . He was released from Bradford in 2008 , and after initially turning down a move to Chester City , he was given a trial at Crewe , which was unsuccessful , and instead he joined Chester where he spent six months before his contract was terminated to allow him to move to Austin Aztex . His form during two seasons in the United Soccer Leagues First Division won him a transfer to Portland Timbers at the end of the 2010 season .

= = Early life = =

Johnson was born in Chester , England , on 20 September 1984 . He attended Boughton Heath Primary School , Christleton High School and The Bishops ' Blue Coat Church of England High School in the city . Despite growing up as an Everton supporter , Johnson started his football career at Crewe Alexandra 's academy at the age of 10 . In 1999 , he signed for Premier League side Manchester United as a junior player .

= = Club career = =

= = = Manchester United = = =

Johnson signed as a trainee at Manchester United in 2001 . Two years later , he was part of their FA Youth Cup @-@ winning team , scoring in the final against Middlesbrough , and had his first involvement with the first team . He made his debut for United on 28 October 2003 against Leeds United when he came on as a 112th @-@ minute substitute in a 3 ? 2 League Cup victory at Elland Road .

Johnson was loaned out to the Belgian club Royal Antwerp in January 2004 where he made 11 appearances , scoring five goals , including a 20 @-@ yard strike on his debut against Heusden @-@ Zolder . In July 2004 , he was sent on loan to Championship @-@ side Coventry City for the 2004 ? 05 season in order to gain first @-@ team experience . He scored on his Coventry debut in a 2 ? 0 victory against Sunderland on 7 August 2004 , before he scored a second later that month in a 4 ? 1 defeat of Nottingham Forest . Johnson did not score again until October , when he scored three times in four games , but they proved to be his last goals of the season . He finished his stay with Coventry with 26 appearances .

In July 2005 , Johnson again moved on loan this time returning to Crewe Alexandra in a six @-@ month deal . It took him eight games to score his first goal which came in a 1 ? 1 draw with Plymouth Argyle on 13 September 2005 . Three more goals followed by the end of 2005 including one on Boxing Day against Hull City , who then offered him a permanent deal . Hull and Manchester United agreed a fee for Johnson but he decided to extend his loan deal at Crewe until the end of the 2005 ? 06 season . It was not until the last game of the season against Millwall that he scored another to bring his tally to five from 22 games . Having failed to make an impact at Manchester United , Johnson was among seven United players given a free transfer at the end of the 2005 ? 06 season . He was offered a contract at Crewe , but also attracted interest from Barnsley and Bradford City , the latter of whom he joined on a two @-@ year deal in June 2006 .

= = = Bradford City = = =

The start of Johnson 's career at League One side Bradford City was marred by an ankle ligament injury in a pre @-@ season friendly at Boston United which was expected to keep him out of the first month of the season . He recovered to make his debut in City 's 2006 ? 07 season 's opening game at Nottingham Forest as a late substitute . Two weeks later he scored his first Bradford goals by netting twice against his former club Crewe in a 3 ? 0 Bradford victory . Johnson struggled for goals at City , and had only scored another two by the time he was ruled out for a month after going off at half @-@ time against Chesterfield on 16 December 2006 with a shin injury . He returned to the City team after a six @-@ game absence for a Friday night game with Tranmere Rovers , which ended 1 ? 1 . He had a goal disallowed against Yeovil Town a week later for offside . Following a poor run of form , City manager Colin Todd was sacked , with his replacement David Wetherall converting Johnson from a striker to a midfielder after an injury to Marc Bridge @-@ Wilkinson . However , City were relegated after a defeat to Chesterfield with Johnson finishing the season with just four goals .

At the start of the 2007 ? 08 season , new manager Stuart McCall continued to employ Johnson in a midfield role , and he was rewarded with goals in back @-@ to @-@ back games and the club 's player of the month in September . In November , he was ruled out for 11 weeks because of a back injury , before he was sidelined again when he gashed his shin in his comeback game against Wrexham on 26 January 2008 . Johnson returned two weeks later as a second @-@ half substitute against Bury . He was used in his former striker 's role later in the season , and scored his sixth league goal in a 1 ? 0 victory over Morecambe on 5 April 2008 . Johnson scored again three days later in a 1 ? 1 draw with Barnet , as he tried to secure a new contract with Bradford . However , on 29 April 2008 , Johnson was deemed to be surplus to requirements at Valley Parade and was released by manager Stuart McCall along with 13 other Bradford players . McCall said releasing Johnson was one of the hardest decisions in his first year as manager , adding : " It went right down to the wire with Eddie . He 's got terrific energy , a good engine and has enjoyed himself at this club . " Johnson played a total of 71 games in all competitions for City , scoring eight goals .

= = = Chester City = = =

In June 2008 , Johnson was offered a two @-@ year contract by fellow League Two side Chester City , but two weeks later , he turned down the deal . Instead he returned to Crewe Alexandra on trial after he and his mother went to see coach Dario Gradi , and scored twice in a 4 ? 1 pre @-@ season friendly victory over Quorn on 16 July 2008 . Despite spending the rest of the summer with Crewe , the club decided not to offer Johnson a full @-@ time contract , because coach Steve Holland felt he was not better than the club 's other forwards .

Instead , Johnson was given another chance with Chester City , with whom he trained in the run up to the start of the 2008 ? 09 season . He scored in a friendly against an Everton reserve team , but despite the club wanting to sign Johnson , the transfer was put on hold because of the club 's salary cap . Johnson had to wait a number of weeks to sign for Chester , after a deal to take Paul Rutherford to Northwich Victoria , freeing up money to pay Johnson , failed to go through before the 2008 summer transfer deadline closed . Johnson finally signed for Chester on 15 October , agreeing a two @-@ year contract with his hometown club . His debut came three days later in a home game with Port Vale , with Chester losing 2 ? 1 , when he had two opportunities to score and was substituted late in the second half . His first goal for Chester was a consolation goal in a 2 ? 1 defeat to Morecambe on 15 November . He missed four weeks out through injury , which coincided with the club 's improvement in form under new manager Mark Wright , until he returned as a last @-@ minute substitute against his former side Bradford City .

= = = Austin Aztex = = =

The following month , with Chester in financial hardship , Johnson was allowed to talk to United Soccer Leagues First Division side Austin Aztex , managed by Adrian Heath , who was caretaker manager during Johnson 's loan spell at Coventry City . Johnson 's contract was terminated by

Chester City on the final day of the January transfer window to allow him to move to the Austin Aztex . His last game for Chester had been during December ; he played just 11 times during his six months with Chester , scoring only once .

Johnson 's move to Austin Aztex was finalised in March and completed their initial starting side , which included fellow English players Alex Tapp and Gifton Noel @-@ Williams and Welshman Gareth Evans . Upon Johnson 's transfer , team manager Adrian Heath said : " I think it 's fair to say that Eddie has lost his way recently and I hope we can get him back on the right path to where he is again one of the bright young players in English football . " Johnson played in the club 's first game , which was a 2 ? 0 friendly defeat to Major League Soccer 's New England Revolution and scored in another pre @-@ season match . Johnson scored his first goal for Austin on 25 April against fellow expansion side the Cleveland City Stars when he scored in the 13th minute of play . Johnson scored his second goal in the final minute of the match . In the 2009 season , Johnson played 22 league matches , scoring five goals making him the Aztex leading goalscorer , but he was forced to miss part of the season because of work permit problems after he returned to England with Evans . Johnson also played in two of the Aztex 's three US Open Cup matches , playing in the first round , scoring the second goal in a 2 ? 0 win over Mississippi Brilla and in Austin 's 2 ? 0 defeat to Houston Dynamo in the third round . The Austin Chronicle named Johnson the city 's best player . The newspaper 's citation said : " he 's been out there hustling every game and providing leadership and a steady influence on and off the field . At 24 , with a background that includes Manchester United and English national youth teams , he might not be with us much longer , but it 's a treat while it lasts . " He went on to win one of the club 's player of the season awards .

During the close @-@ season , Johnson sought a possible new club back in England , and before the start of the 2010 season in America , he was given a trial with Major League Soccer side Seattle Sounders FC joining them for their pre @-@ season training camp . Having trained with Sounders , Johnson decided to stay with Austin Aztex and signed a new two @-@ year contract . In the first game of the Aztex season , Johnson hit the goalpost with a 20 @-@ yard curling shot , but Lawrence Olum scored with the rebound , helping the Aztex to a 2 ? 0 victory against Montreal Impact . During May , Johnson scored five goals , including two in a 3 ? 3 draw with Tampa Bay and made two assists to help Austin record an unbeaten spell . He again scored two goals in a 2 ? 1 Aztex victory over Miami and helped take his team to the top of the table by being the club 's leading goalscorer throughout the campaign . Heath also used him in his original position in attack , including as a sole striker in a defeat to Puerto Rico Islanders . It was a result that saw the Aztex lose their top spot for the first time in three months . A week later , Johnson scored his tenth goal of the season to give his side their fourth win in five games by defeating Carolina RailHawks 3 ? 2 . The Aztex returned to the top of the table with a 2 ? 0 victory against NSC Minnesota Stars with Johnson scoring the opening goal of the game . Aztex qualified for the end @-@ of @-@ season play @-@ offs where they faced Montreal Impact over two legs . Johnson scored one of Aztex 's two goals in the second leg but their season finished with a 5 ? 2 aggregate defeat . Johnson played a total of 28 games during the season , scoring 15 goals , and earned a place in the 2010 season best XI .

= = = Portland Timbers = = =

Johnson 's form for the Aztex attracted the attention of the Portland Timbers , a Major League Soccer expansion side for the 2011 season . At the end of the 2010 league season , Johnson was announced as one of the Timbers first four signings , along with Steve Cronin , Ryan Pore and Bright Dike . Because Portland had second draft pick behind fellow expansion side Vancouver Whitecaps , they announced they had previously signed Johnson , by taking him to their former USL side before the transfer deadline on 14 August and loaning him back to the Aztex for the remainder of the 2010 season . He was listed on the Timbers ' roster as a forward . Johnson was a late substitute for Jorge Perlaza in the Timbers ' first MLS home game and fourth in all , as they defeated Chicago Fire 4 ? 2 on 15 April 2011 .

Johnson announced his retirement on 20 April 2012 , the same day that Portland acquired forward

Mike Fucito .

= = Coaching career = =

= = = Dundee = = =

In July 2014 , Johnson was announced as the new under @-@ 20 manager for Dundee .

= = International career = =

Johnson has represented England at under @-@ 16 , under @-@ 18 , under @-@ 19 and 20 levels . His form during his time at Manchester United earned him a place in the England team in the 2003 FIFA World Youth Championship , after scoring twice in a friendly game before the tournament . Johnson played in all three of England 's games against Japan , Egypt and Colombia during the tournament in the United Arab Emirates , but England picked up just one point and were eliminated in the group stage .

= = Career statistics = =

= = = Club = = =

Updated to 14 August 2011 .

= = Honours = =

= = = Individual = = =

USSF D @-@ 2 Pro League Best XI (1) : 2010

= = Personal life = =

Johnson married during the off @-@ season between the 2010 and 2011 American League seasons .