

= Shaun Goater =

Leonard Shaun Goater MBE (born 25 February 1970) is a Bermudian footballer who is now retired . He played as a striker for a number of English clubs in the 1990s and 2000s . He is currently assistant manager at New Mills .

Goater 's first professional club was Manchester United , but he did not reach the first team , making his League debut in 1989 after moving to Rotherham United . He played for Rotherham for seven years before moving to Bristol City in 1996 . Two years later he moved to Manchester City for a fee of £ 400 @, @ 000 .

He is most well known for his time at Manchester City , where he scored over 100 goals between 1998 and 2003 , finishing as the club 's top scorer for four consecutive seasons . After leaving City , Goater had spells with Reading , Coventry City and Southend United , before retiring in May 2006 . He represented Bermuda 36 times , scoring 32 goals .

= = Early life = =

Goater was born in the Bermudian capital Hamilton , living with his mother Lynette , his grandmother and two aunts . His introduction to English football came in April 1987 when he was invited to join the Saltus Grammar School football and basketball tour . He spent two weeks playing against various English high school teams , including the Leicester City youth team . At the age of 17 , he left home to further his education in the United States , where he had a soccer scholarship at Columbia High School , New Jersey . Whilst home in Bermuda during his Thanksgiving break , Goater was spotted by scouts from Manchester United , who invited him to England for a trial . With encouragement from his mother , who was a former football player herself , Goater accepted , forfeiting his scholarship by doing so . At this time , Goater did not play as a striker , but instead played as a creative midfielder .

= = Club career = =

= = = Early career = = =

Goater 's trial resulted in the offer of a professional contract , but he did not break into the first team . In 1989 , Goater signed for Rotherham United in order to play first team football . At this time , Goater suffered homesickness , finding it difficult to adapt to the English climate : " It took me a good two years to get used to life in England . At first I thought the sun never shone and it wasn 't for me . " However , he gradually got used to living in England , and over the course of seven seasons at Rotherham he gained a reputation as a reliable lower division striker , scoring 86 goals in 262 appearances , with a winner 's medal for the 1996 Auto Windscreens Shield the highlight . A 1992 League Cup tie against Everton gave Goater his first experience of playing against a Premier League team . In the first leg , Goater scored the only goal of the game as Rotherham won 1 ? 0 . However , Everton won the return leg 3 ? 0 and Rotherham were eliminated . In 1993 , Goater also had a brief loan spell at Notts County , though he made only one appearance for the Nottingham club due to a work permit problem . Towards the end of the 1995 ? 96 season , Goater had a disagreement with Rotherham manager Archie Gemmill , and decided his future lay elsewhere .

In the 1995 ? 96 close season , Goater received offers from Spanish club Osasuna and newly formed South Koreans Suwon Samsung Bluewings , but having recently married , he decided to stay in England . Shortly after , he moved to Bristol City for a fee of £ 175 @, @ 000 . Goater 's Bristol City debut came against Gillingham . Goater scored , but Bristol City lost 3 ? 2 . City finished the season in fifth , qualifying for the playoffs , but lost to Brentford . The following season Bristol City were pushing for promotion into the First Division , and Goater scored regularly , eventually being named in the PFA Team of the Year for the division . In a little under two years with the Bristol City , he scored 45 goals in 81 appearances . On 26 March 1998 , transfer deadline day , Goater

signed for Manchester City , who paid Bristol City £ 400 @, @ 000 for his services .

= = = Manchester City = = =

Goater joined Manchester City at a turbulent point in their history , with newly appointed manager Joe Royle battling to save the club from relegation to Second Division . Goater scored three goals in the seven remaining matches of the 1997 ? 98 season , but this was not enough to prevent the club from being relegated to the third tier of English Football for the first time ever . Fans were initially sceptical as to Goater 's ability , but as goals were scored supporters were gradually won over , creating a song in his honour , " Feed The Goat And He Will Score " (to the tune Cwm Rhondda) . The 1998 ? 99 season saw Goater score 21 goals , finishing the season as Manchester City 's top goalscorer . The last of these was the winning goal in a play @-@ off semi @-@ final against Wigan Athletic , sending Manchester City to Wembley Stadium for a playoff final which saw City promoted after a penalty shootout .

The 1999 ? 2000 season was even more successful for Goater . He was the club 's top goal score again , this time with 29 goals , and was named Manchester City 's Player of the Year by the supporters after Manchester City were promoted for the second successive year . In the summer , Goater was awarded the freedom of Bermuda , with 21 June declared as " Shaun Goater Day " on the island . The following season , Goater made his first appearance in top flight football at the age of 30 , though injury and the presence of new signings Paulo Wanchope and former World Player of the Year George Weah meant he had to wait three months to do so . Again established in the first team , Goater was Manchester City 's top goalscorer for the third consecutive season , but his 11 goals could not save the team from relegation .

During the 2000 ? 01 close season , upheaval took place at Manchester City , with manager Royle departing to be replaced by Kevin Keegan . In the 2001 ? 02 season , Goater became the first Manchester City player since Francis Lee in 1972 to score more than 30 goals in a season . City were promoted as champions , and he was the club 's top scorer for the fourth time in a row , as well as being the top scorer in the division .

Over the summer of 2001 ? 02 , there was speculation that Goater would be transferred , as Manchester City had twice broken their transfer record by buying strikers Jon Macken and Nicolas Anelka . Goater stayed , but opportunities were limited . He started just 14 games , but scored seven goals , including his 100th for the club , which came in a derby match against local rivals Manchester United . In February 2003 , Goater struck against the same opposition to score the fastest goal by a substitute in Premier League history , just 9 seconds after coming onto the pitch . He also scored a goal that would have won City the match , but it was disallowed .

Shortly before the end of the 2002 ? 03 season , Goater announced his intention to leave Manchester City when the season finished in order to seek regular first team football . In his final match for Manchester City , he was asked to captain the side in Manchester City 's final game at Maine Road . In total , Goater scored 103 goals in 212 appearances for Manchester City . Since ending his footballing career , Goater has been critical of both Kevin Keegan , who he claims never praised him and Nicolas Anelka , who he feels wanted to be ' the daddy ' of Manchester City .

= = = Later career = = =

Goater moved to Reading on 1 August 2003 . Reading chairman John Madejski described the transfer as " the biggest in Reading Football Club 's history " , but Goater 's time there was not a happy one . Shortly after Goater 's arrival , Reading manager Alan Pardew left for West Ham United , and Pardew 's replacement , Steve Coppell , did not regard Goater as part of his plans . In his second and final season at Reading , Goater played just four times , and was loaned to Coventry City . Goater then considered retirement , but instead moved to League One club Southend United for a final season as a professional . The move , a free transfer , was completed on 3 August 2005 . At Southend , Goater acted as a mentor for young striker Freddy Eastwood , and contributed towards a second successive promotion for the Shrimpers , scoring 11 goals . His final appearance

before retirement was on 6 May 2006 , when Southend played Bristol City , one of Goater 's former clubs . The crowd included an estimated 400 Manchester City fans who travelled to Southend to mark the occasion .

After retiring , Goater returned to Bermuda , receiving an official welcome from the Premier of Bermuda Alex Scott on his arrival . A week later , Southend played the Bermuda national team in an appreciation game for their former striker . Goater has expressed a wish to enter coaching following his retirement , and studied for the UEFA B coaching licence in 2005 . Since 2003 , Goater has organised the annual Shaun Goater Grass @-@ roots Soccer Festival , a football coaching event for children in Bermuda . On 14 September 2006 , Goater and the United Soccer Leagues announced that Bermuda would receive a professional football team that would play in the third division of American football , the USL Second Division . Goater had roles as both a director and player of the team , the Bermuda Hogges . Goater left Bermuda Hogges in 2008 , to concentrate on youth coaching with North Village Rams in his home town .

Goater and three other partners in the Bermuda @-@ based East End Group Limited announced an amalgamation with Telecommunications Networks Limited (now renamed East End Telecom) on 9 November 2007 , which added to the group 's two other business subsidiaries , East End Asphalt and East End Aviation . Goater serves as the group 's Business Development Manager .

When in England , Goater has made regular appearances in local media covering the Manchester area . These have included a column entitled " Read the Goat " in the official Manchester City match programme , and a regular guest spot on the BBC Radio Manchester programme Blue Tuesday .

On 8 August 2015 , it was announced that Goater would join Northern Premier League Division One North club New Mills A.F.C. as assistant manager to Andy Fearn . In September 2015 , Fearn and Goater resigned from New Mills after nine defeats in nine games .

= = International career = =

Goater has also played for the Bermudian national team 36 times , scoring 32 goals , though due to Bermuda 's lowly standing in world football he never played in a major international tournament . He made his first international appearance at the age of 17 against Canada .

During the 1992 ? 93 season , Goater missed eight weeks of the club season in order to represent his country in qualifying for the 1994 World Cup . However , Bermuda finished bottom of a group containing El Salvador , Canada and Jamaica . His final appearance was in June 2004 against El Salvador .

When playing for Bermuda , Goater was often the only professional player in the team . Bermudian journalist Chris Gibbons described the difference between Goater and his team @-@ mates : " He 's a class above every other player on the island . Before he went to England he was just quick , but now he 's a totally different player , a lot more aggressive and a much better header of the ball . The problem has been that he sets up chances for the others without them being on the same wavelength . " However , Goater noted that this had a detrimental aspect : " My fitness dropped off while I was with Bermuda . It was like being on holiday . The team just ate what they liked . I kept to my professional diet for about two or three weeks until peer pressure took over . "

= = Personal life = =

Goater is married to Anita , his childhood sweetheart , and has two daughters , Amaya and Anais (born 3 October 2000 in Wythenshawe , Manchester) . He was awarded the MBE in 2003 for services to sport and young people in Bermuda . His autobiography , Feed the Goat : The Shaun Goater Story was published in September 2006 .

= = Career statistics = =

= = = International goals = = =

Scores and results list Bermuda 's goal tally first .

= = Honours = =

= = = Club = = =

Rotherham United

Football League Trophy : 1995 ? 96

Manchester City

Football League Second Division play @-@ offs : 1998 ? 99

Football League First Division : 2001 ? 02

Southend United

Football League One : 2005 ? 06

= = = Individual = = =

Football League First Division Top Scorer : 2001 ? 02

PFA Team of the Year : 1997 ? 98 , 2001 ? 02