

= Michael Rankine =

Michael Lee Rankine (born 15 January 1985) is an English semi @-@ professional footballer who plays as a striker for National League club Guiseley .

Rankine began his career with the Doncaster Rovers youth system , before playing for Armthorpe Welfare and Barrow in non @-@ League football . He moved to Football League team Scunthorpe United in 2004 but after only scoring one goal for them he signed for Alfreton Town . He joined Conference National team Rushden & Diamonds in 2006 , where he played for three seasons , before signing for divisional rivals York City in 2009 . He played for them in the 2010 Conference Premier play @-@ off Final before signing for Aldershot Town in 2011 . He spent two seasons at Aldershot and during that time had loan spells with Grimsby Town and York . After a season with Hereford United he joined Gateshead in 2014 .

= = Career = =

= = = Early career = = =

Born in Doncaster , South Yorkshire , Rankine started his career in the youth system of hometown club Doncaster Rovers . He played for Armthorpe Welfare on work experience in 2002 and was released by Doncaster at the end of the 2002 ? 03 season after failing to progress into their first team . He joined Northern Premier League Premier Division side Barrow in the summer of 2003 after impressing against them for Armthorpe during a pre @-@ season friendly . He was unable to play for them in the opening game of 2003 ? 04 after suffering whiplash following a car crash . He made 47 appearances and scored nine goals in 2003 ? 04 .

= = = Scunthorpe United = = =

Rankine signed for League Two team Scunthorpe United on non @-@ contract terms on 15 September 2004 , following a trial after being recommended to the club by Barrow manager Lee Turnbull . The move came having made 11 appearances and scored three goals for Barrow up to that point during 2004 ? 05 . He scored the winning goal for Scunthorpe away at Bury on his debut with a close range finish from Andy Crosby 's knock @-@ down in the 89th minute , which gave his team a 1 ? 0 victory . He started for Scunthorpe in a 3 ? 1 defeat to eventual FA Premier League champions Chelsea in the FA Cup third round in January 2005 , after which he was given the shirt of striker Didier Drogba . He scored one goal for Scunthorpe in 2004 ? 05 , in which he made 24 appearances , as they won promotion into League One as League Two runners @-@ up . He signed a new six @-@ month contract with the club in June 2005 .

Rankine rejoined former club Barrow on a one @-@ month loan in August 2005 , and after scoring two goals , the loan was extended for a second month in September . During the second month , he was recalled by Scunthorpe , due to injuries at the club , meaning he finished the loan period with 11 appearances and three goals . He was reported to have joined Lincoln City on trial in December , but this claim was rejected by Lincoln manager Keith Alexander . Following the expiry of his Scunthorpe contract on 9 December 2005 , he later joined Conference National team Altrincham on trial and scored for their reserve team .

= = = Alfreton Town and Rushden & Diamonds = = =

After his contract at Scunthorpe expired , he had a period with former club Armthorpe Welfare to help his fitness , before joining Alfreton Town of the Conference North in January 2006 . He finished 2005 ? 06 with 22 appearances and three goals for Alfreton , after which he was offered a new contract in May 2006 . However , Rankine joined Conference National team Rushden & Diamonds on a one @-@ year contract on 24 July 2006 , after being on trial for three weeks . He made his

debut in a 1 ? 0 defeat to Crawley Town on 12 August 2006 , which was followed by his first goal in the following game three days later , converting a Glenn Wilson cross in a 3 ? 1 defeat to Grays Athletic . He next scored with two goals in a 3 ? 1 victory over League One team Yeovil Town in the FA Cup first round in November . He signed a new two @-@ year contract with Rushden in March 2007 , which contracted him at the club until the summer of 2009 , with the option of a further two years . He scored two goals in the last five minutes against Weymouth on 3 April to help Rushden to a 4 ? 1 victory . He finished 2006 ? 07 with 46 appearances and 10 goals for Rushden .

Rankine played for Rushden in the Conference League Cup Final against Aldershot Town on 3 April 2008 , and scored a goal during the first minute of stoppage time in extra time , ensuring a 3 ? 3 draw and a penalty shoot @-@ out , which Rushden lost 4 ? 3 . He finished 2007 ? 08 with 52 appearances and 15 goals for Rushden . He joined League Two team Bournemouth on a one @-@ month loan on 8 October 2008 , after having made eight appearances for Rushden up to that point during 2008 ? 09 . He made his debut in a 0 ? 0 draw with Rotherham United three days later before finishing the loan period with four appearances . Bournemouth were hoping to extend the loan , but Rushden wanted him to return . He scored two goals for Rushden in a 9 ? 0 victory over Weymouth on 20 February 2009 , who had been forced to field a youth team . He finished 2008 ? 09 with 38 appearances and eight goals for Rushden .

= = = York City = = =

He joined Conference Premier rivals York City on a two @-@ year contract on 12 June 2009 for a fee of £ 10 @,@ 000 , with York 's Craig Farrell moving in the opposite direction . He made his debut in a 2 ? 1 defeat to Oxford United on 8 August 2009 . He scored his first goal for York after winning and scoring a penalty kick in a 2 ? 0 victory over Forest Green Rovers on 15 August . He played in both legs of York 's play @-@ off semi @-@ final victory over Luton Town , which finished 2 ? 0 on aggregate . He started in the 2010 Conference Premier play @-@ off Final at Wembley Stadium on 16 May 2010 , being substituted on 70 minutes , which was lost 3 ? 1 to Oxford . He finished 2009 ? 10 with 55 appearances and 10 goals for York .

Rankine made his first appearance of 2010 ? 11 in the opening game , a 2 ? 1 defeat to Kidderminster Harriers on 14 August 2010 , entering the game as a substitute in the 65th minute and scoring a penalty in the 86th minute . His first goals of the season from open play came after scoring twice in a 3 ? 0 victory over Altrincham on 28 August 2010 . Rankine finished the season as York 's top scorer with 14 goals in 48 appearances .

= = = Aldershot Town = = =

He rejected a new contract with York during 2010 ? 11 and manager Gary Mills confirmed he was to leave the club to sign for League Two side Aldershot Town . He agreed to sign for Aldershot on a free transfer on 12 May 2011 .

Rankine signed for Conference Premier club Grimsby Town on a one @-@ month loan deal on 23 November 2012 . He made his debut a day later as a 66th @-@ minute substitute in Grimsby 's 0 ? 0 home draw with Buxton in the FA Trophy first round . Rankine returned to Aldershot on 4 January 2013 as he wanted a more long @-@ term extension to his loan at Grimsby , who were only offering a one @-@ month extension . He had made six appearances for Grimsby . Rankine returned to former club York , by this time playing in League Two , on loan until the end of 2012 ? 13 on 12 February 2013 . He made his first appearance since returning later that day , playing in York 's 0 ? 0 home draw with Gillingham . Rankine was sent back to Aldershot on 4 April 2013 having been deemed surplus to requirements by new manager Nigel Worthington . He had made eight appearance for York . He finished the season with two goals in 28 games for Aldershot as they were relegated into the Conference Premier .

= = = Hereford United = = =

He joined Tamworth on trial in July 2013 , scoring in the club 's 2 ? 0 friendly win over Atherstone Town . Shortly afterwards he joined Conference Premier club Hereford United on a one @-@ year contract following a trial . He made his debut in Hereford 's 1 ? 1 draw at home to Braintree Town in the opening match of 2013 ? 14 on 10 August 2013 . Rankine scored his first goal for Hereford with the equalising goal in the 70th minute of a 2 ? 2 draw away to Hyde on 17 August 2013 . He scored an 88th @-@ minute winner for Hereford in a 2 ? 1 away win over Aldershot , a result that saw the club avoid relegation on goal difference . However , Hereford were later expelled from the Football Conference and he commented that the situation at the club was " embarrassing " and a " disgrace " . He had made 34 appearances and scored seven goals for Hereford in the 2013 ? 14 season .

= = = Gateshead = = =

Rankine signed for Conference Premier club Gateshead , managed by his former Alfreton and York manager Mills , on a one @-@ year contract 30 June 2014 . He made his debut on 13 September 2014 as a 61st @-@ minute substitute in a 1 ? 0 win against Dartford , and scored his first goal for the club with a close @-@ range finished from a Carl Finnigan cross in the 86th minute of a 2 ? 2 extra time draw to Wrexham in the FA Trophy third round on 7 February 2015 , with Gateshead losing 5 ? 3 in a penalty shoot @-@ out . Rankine made 36 appearances and scored five goals in 2014 ? 15 as Gateshead finished 10th in the Conference Premier .

= = = Altrincham = = =

Rankine signed for National League side Altrincham on 3 June 2015 , leaving Gateshead as he was unhappy with how regularly he was playing there . He made his debut in a 1 ? 0 home defeat to Forest Green on 8 August 2015 and scored his first goal with a looping header from a James Lawrie cross in the 29th @-@ minute of a 2 ? 1 home victory over Tranmere Rovers on 29 August . Rankine finished 2015 ? 16 with 15 goals from 45 appearances as Altrincham were relegated in 22nd @-@ place in the National League .

= = = Guiseley = = =

Rankine joined National League club Guiseley on 26 May 2016 .

= = Style of play = =

Rankine plays as a striker and has been described as a target man , not being a prolific goalscorer , and he has said " I just like to chip away and work as hard as I can and , hopefully , then you get rewarded with goals " . He has the " ability to hold the ball up , and cause the defenders problems " and is in possession of the long throw @-@ in ability . After Rankine signed for Bournemouth , manager Jimmy Quinn said " He 's big , he 's strong and I 'm pleased to get him in " . York manager Martin Foyle said Rankine " will also work hard , close down and give us a presence in the final third . He 's a good size , mobile and will certainly run the channels . "

= = Personal life = =

Rankine is the nephew of former player Mark Rankine and cousin of Tottenham Hotspur 's Danny Rose . He has one child , a boy , with his girlfriend . He was arrested along with York players Michael Gash , Michael Ingham and Craig Nelthorpe in August 2009 following an incident involving two other men at a Subway outlet on a night out . The four appeared at York Magistrates ' Court on 14 January 2010 after being charged with affray . Rankine denied a charge of affray and instead pleaded guilty to a lesser charge after appearing at York Crown Court on 1 September .

= = Career statistics = =

As of match played 30 April 2016 .

= = Honours = =

Scunthorpe United

Football League Two runner @-@ up : 2004 ? 05