

= Chris Brandon =

Christopher William " Chris " Brandon (born 7 April 1976) is an English professional footballer who last played in Thailand for BEC Tero Sasana . He is a midfielder who has played more than 300 games during his professional career , which did not start until he was aged 23 . After he was released by Bradford City 's youth academy as a youngster he followed a non @-@ league career with Bradford Park Avenue , Farsley Celtic and Stafford Rangers .

He became a professional in 1999 with Division Three side Torquay United . Torquay were aiming for promotion during Brandon 's first season with the club , but they finished two places outside the Division Three play @-@ offs . He only played two games the following season because of a stomach tear , and upon his return Torquay were instead battling against relegation from The Football League , and Brandon left after three seasons with the club . He moved up a division and played for two years with Chesterfield , where he picked up a number of individual awards but spent two seasons fighting against relegation . In 2004 , he joined Huddersfield Town where he twice narrowly missed out on promotion . He had a short spell on loan with Blackpool , helping them to the promotion play @-@ offs . However , after a permanent move failed to materialise he returned to Huddersfield for a fourth season . When he was released by new manager Stan Ternent after four years with the club , he rejoined Bradford City , but had two injury @-@ hit seasons before being released early from his contract . At the start of the following year , he moved to Thailand to join BEC Tero Sasana .

= = Early life = =

Brandon was born in Bradford , West Yorkshire , England , on 7 April 1976 . He attended Yorkshire Martyrs Collegiate School in Bradford and supported the city 's Football League team Bradford City .

= = Career = =

= = = Early career = = =

Brandon started his football career as a trainee for Bradford City , but he was dropped by their academy and joined non @-@ league side Bradford Park Avenue . He later played for Farsley Celtic before joining Stafford Rangers . He played 32 times for Rangers over two seasons before returning to play for Bradford Park Avenue . In his two spells with Park Avenue , Brandon played a total of 107 games .

= = = Torquay United = = =

In March 1999 , he played as a trialist in a reserve match for Lincoln City , but failed to win a contract . Five months later , he was signed by Division Three side Torquay United . He made his debut in the opening fixture of the 1999 ? 2000 season as Torquay defeated Shrewsbury Town at Gay Meadow . He established himself as a first @-@ team regular and played 50 games in all competitions , scoring a total of five goals , the first of which came in a 2 ? 1 victory against Peterborough United on 19 October 1999 . Torquay finished in ninth place in Division Three , just three points outside the play @-@ off places .

In July 2000 , he signed a new two @-@ year deal with Torquay . However , only two games into the following season , he picked up a stomach tear , which kept him out for the rest of the season . Without Brandon , Torquay could not match their high league position of the previous season , and finished 21st , four points above Barnet who were relegated out of The Football League .

He returned from injury in time for the start of the 2001 ? 02 season and once again he became an established member of the team during the start of the campaign . He was dropped from the side for

a period of time following an FA Cup defeat to Northampton Town in November 2001 , during which he missed an open goal . He returned to the first team in January 2002 and scored on his second game back in the starting eleven as Torquay defeated Bristol Rovers . Two months later , he scored a vital goal in a 2 ? 0 victory over Lincoln City , which helped Torquay to only their second home victory in four months and move them 13 points clear of the relegation zone . Torquay finished the season only two places higher than their previous campaign , but 15 points above relegated Halifax Town . During his disrupted three seasons with Torquay , Brandon amassed 83 appearances with ten goals to his credit , before he moved to Chesterfield in July 2002 on a free transfer .

= = = Chesterfield = = =

Brandon signed a two @-@ year contract with Division Two side Chesterfield , and made his debut against Queens Park Rangers on the first day of the 2002 ? 03 season . Chesterfield lost the game at Loftus Road 3 ? 1 . Brandon 's first goal for Chesterfield came a week later when he scored a 12 @-@ yard overhead kick to give them a late 2 ? 1 victory over Port Vale . He scored again just ten days later as Chesterfield defeated Northampton Town 4 ? 0 . His third goal was another volley during a 1 ? 0 victory over Stockport County . However , he was substituted at half @-@ time , and he did not play for another two weeks because of suspension , until he scored again in a League Cup game against West Ham United live on television , which Chesterfield lost on penalties . He scored in both the first and second rounds of the Football League Trophy , but Chesterfield were defeated on penalties by Port Vale in the second round . He finished the season with ten goals but also 11 yellow cards . However , he played only one game during the final month , with his last game coming on 21 April 2003 , when Chesterfield finished with just nine players because of serious injuries to Brandon and striker Caleb Folan . Chesterfield picked up four points in their final two games without Brandon , and avoided relegation by just one position , finishing two points above Cheltenham Town . Brandon 's ten goals meant he finished as Chesterfield 's top goalscorer and also helped Brandon win three awards at the club 's end of season awards , as well as reported interest from nearby Nottingham Forest , who had missed out on promotion to the Premier League .

Brandon overcame his hamstring problems to return before the start of the following season , at the start of which he maintained his goalscoring form , scoring twice within the space of three days , as Chesterfield drew 3 ? 3 with Wycombe Wanderers , then 1 ? 1 with Plymouth Argyle . He only managed another four goals all season , but they included two against Lincoln City in a Football League Trophy defeat and one goal to help Chesterfield 's fight to avoid relegation in a 3 ? 1 victory over local rivals Sheffield Wednesday . He finished the season with six goals , which took his tally for Chesterfield to 16 goals from 88 games . Chesterfield again finished just one place above the relegation zone , and Brandon left in July 2004 to sign for Huddersfield Town under manager Peter Jackson on a free transfer .

= = = Huddersfield Town = = =

Huddersfield had been one of the teams relegated below Chesterfield in 2002 ? 03 , but had been immediately promoted back to League One . Brandon made his debut for Huddersfield on the opening day of the 2004 ? 05 season in a 3 ? 2 victory over Stockport County . Chesterfield goalkeeper Carl Muggleton twice denied him a goal in his first home game three days later , but Brandon only had to wait until the following month when he scored in a 4 ? 0 victory against Hull City . Brandon scored a total of six goals in his first season with Huddersfield , but also received the first red card of his professional career in a 1 ? 0 win over Blackpool for a professional foul . Two of Brandon 's goals came as Huddersfield pushed for a play @-@ off place with a run of five successive victories , but they could only finish ninth , just one point behind Hartlepool United in the final play @-@ off spot . Jackson praised Brandon for his " workrate and skill " and offered him and captain Jon Worthington each new two @-@ year deals .

Huddersfield started the 2005 ? 06 season in the same form . Brandon scored his first goal of the season during a 2 ? 1 win over Doncaster Rovers on 29 August 2008 , which gave them their fifth

win from seven games during the month . In mid @-@ November , Brandon signed the two @-@ year contract extension , which kept him at Huddersfield until June 2008 , and instantly targeted promotion . The following month Brandon scored the only goal of a 1 ? 0 win over non @-@ league Worcester City in the FA Cup second round to earn Huddersfield a tie with Premiership champions Chelsea at Stamford Bridge . Two days later , Brandon received another red card , as both he and David Mirfin were sent off in the final minute of a 2 ? 2 draw with Milton Keynes Dons . Brandon returned to the side following his suspension and helped Huddersfield to win a place in the play @-@ offs . He was an unused substitute in the first leg 1 ? 0 victory over Barnsley , and he played just eight minutes of the second leg , as Huddersfield lost 3 ? 1 to again miss out on promotion .

The following season was interrupted by an achilles injury for Brandon . It was not until February 2007 , that Brandon scored his first goal of the 2006 ? 07 season , during Huddersfield Town 's 2 ? 1 defeat to Crewe Alexandra . He only played one more game for Huddersfield that season , before he joined fellow League One side Blackpool on loan on 21 March 2007 , joining another Town teammate , goalkeeper Paul Rachubka . Blackpool were searching for promotion and Brandon helped when he scored two goals during a 4 ? 1 defeat of Northampton Town . However , he was sent off on 28 April 2007 in Blackpool 's win at home to Scunthorpe United , which resulted in his missing the Seasiders ' play @-@ off games , and therefore not being considered for their successful final at Wembley against Yeovil Town . Brandon played in five games during his loan spell , all of which Blackpool won .

It seemed certain that manager Simon Grayson was going to purchase Brandon , but instead Grayson bought Brandon 's team @-@ mate Gary Taylor @-@ Fletcher . Brandon returned to Huddersfield and was back in first team . However , after he was substituted on 14 October 2007 against Doncaster Rovers , he did not feature again until the New Year . On 5 January 2008 , his second game back in the Huddersfield side , Brandon scored another FA Cup winning goal to knock Premier League side Birmingham City out of the competition in a 2 ? 1 defeat at the Galpharm Stadium . He scored his second goal of the season , in the following game against Gillingham , but was sent off in the final minute of a 1 ? 1 draw with Brighton & Hove Albion the next week . Brandon 's red card meant he was suspended for Huddersfield 's fourth round FA Cup tie with Oldham Athletic , but following a 1 ? 0 victory , he returned in time for their visit to Chelsea in the fifth round , which Chelsea won 3 ? 1 . Brandon scored just one more goal during the rest of the season , with his last game coming on 15 April 2008 in the Yorkshire derby with Leeds United . With his contract due to expire in the summer , it turned out to be his final game for Huddersfield after 135 league appearances , during which time he scored 12 goals , and a total of 148 games .

= = = Bradford City = = =

After being one of eight players to be released by new Huddersfield manager Stan Ternent in early May 2008 , Brandon turned down the chance to join another League One side and instead dropped down a division for the first time in six years to sign a two @-@ year deal at Bradford City on 30 May 2008 . Although Bradford were a League Two side , Brandon said it would be the highlight of his career to play for his hometown club .

An ankle injury , which Brandon picked up in a pre @-@ season tour game against Scottish side Motherwell kept Brandon out of the side at the start of the 2008 ? 09 season . This included a League Cup game against his old side Huddersfield Town on 12 August 2008 , for which he was a spectator as Bradford lost 4 ? 0 . When he attempted to make a comeback , he injured his other ankle in a reserve game with Scunthorpe United and was forced to undergo the first operation of his career which kept him out until January 2009 . Once he returned to training in January , his first team debut was again delayed after a shoulder injury suffered at home . He returned to action for the reserves against Doncaster Rovers in February , before making his long @-@ awaited debut on 7 March 2009 against Aldershot Town with City three goals ahead in a game which finally finished 5 ? 0 . He finished the season playing seven games . However , City missed out on promotion and Brandon 's future was cast into doubt because of the size of his contract and budget cuts at the club .

Brandon , however , remained at Bradford for the 2009 ? 10 season and he scored his first goal for his hometown club with a late goal in a 2 ? 0 victory against his former side Torquay United in late August . The following month , his second goal for the club again came against one of Brandon 's former teams , as he once again came off the substitutes ' bench to score in a 3 ? 0 victory over Chesterfield . However , he continued to struggle to hold down a regular first @-@ team place and when new manager Peter Taylor took over , Brandon was one of a number of players released early from his contract . He had played just 31 games during his two seasons with City , scoring three goals .

= = = BEC Tero Sasana = = =

After his release from Bradford , Brandon spent a period of time training with Scottish @-@ side Dundee United , although that was because he was visiting his friend and former teammate Danny Cadamarteri and would not be offered a contract , before he was offered a trial with Port Vale in July 2010 . It proved to be an unsuccessful trial , with Brandon spending time away from the game . He later held talks with Conference North side Guiseley , a non @-@ league team from near Bradford . At the start of 2011 , he signed for Thai Premier League side BEC Tero Sasana .

= = Style of play = =

Brandon is principally a midfielder who plays anywhere in the midfield , but has also been used just behind a pair of strikers or in attack . At Chesterfield , his ability to take on opposition defenders , create openings for teammates and score " wonder goals " helped him to win a number of awards . His former manager , Peter Jackson has also praised Brandon 's " workrate and skill " .

= = Career statistics = =

Updated 1 July 2010 .

= = = Honours = = =

Chesterfield

Player of the season : 2002 ? 03