

Classic Poetry Series

Rodney Jack
- poems -

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Rodney Jack()

Rodney Jack (born 18 September 1972 in Kingstown, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines) is a professional football player from Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. He is best known for his spells with Torquay United and Crewe Alexandra. He has also played internationally for Saint Vincent and the Grenadines national football team.

Jack was spotted by Torquay United manager Eddie May when playing for Lambada, a Caribbean select side. May signed him for the Gulls on 10 October 1995. He joined Newcastle United on trial in September 1996, Kevin Keegan offering £250,000 for him, but the deal fell through due to problems with his work permit. With the attention being placed on him from higher levels it was inevitable that Jack would move on at some point, and on 17 July 1998 he moved to Crewe Alexandra for a club record fee of £650,000. He had played 110 times, scoring 30 goals for Torquay.

He immediately settled into the Crewe side, scoring nine goals in his first season, but injuries and international call-ups hampered his progress. He played 188 times and scored 42 goals for Crewe before signing for Rushden & Diamonds in 2003 playing 49 games and scoring 13 goals before following manager Brian Talbot to Oldham Athletic in 2004.

His time with Oldham was blighted by injuries and the club released him in 2005. He spent the summer on trial at newly relegated Division Two side Wrexham but failed to win a contract at the club and signed for Irish side Waterford United. In the summer of 2006 he rejoined Crewe Alexandra on a one-year contract, at the end of which he was released on a free transfer. In July 2007, he trialed for Conference North side Southport, playing in a friendly against Tranmere Rovers, in which he set up the only goal of the game.

He was offered a contract by Southport manager, Peter Davenport, before returning to his home country to deal with "family commitments" which were eventually revealed as aiding his father in recovering from an illness. On returning to England he trained with Southport and joined full-time until the end of the season. His experience shone through in the 5–1 thrashing of fellow promotion chasers AFC Telford United. He left Southport towards the end of the season, and joined Nantwich Town. He won the club's Player of the Year award for the 2010–11 season. He left Nantwich at the end of the 2011/12 season.

Stonefruit

To you whom I've hurt
not meaning to

I offer this plum this drupe
no shell but a thin skin purpled

I tender to your mouth the muscle
the sweet sympathetic scar-tissue

surrounding the stone the seed
which wants to be buried

Submitted by Southerndeb

Rodney Jack