

No emotional Kettering return for injured Coke



NO ROCKINGHAM RETURN – midfielder Giles Coke will be ruled out of tonight's game at Kettering Town, ground where he won a contract with Kingstonian while playing in a trials match

By Jefferson Lake

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GILES COKE'S knee injury means the midfielder will be denied the chance to make a return to the scene of his big break in professional football tonight.

The midfielder, who joined the Cobblers from Mansfield earlier this month, is still rated as 'two to three weeks away' from joining in full training by manager Stuart Gray.

Coke arrived at Sixfields this month, but it isn't the first time he has appeared in Northamptonshire looking to pursue his football career.

The 21-year-old was released as a youngster by Queens Park Rangers and enrolled as a member with Northampton-based FootballCV.com as he looked to get a second chance at making a living from the professional game.

Midfielder Coke appeared at a trials day at Rockingham Road, where he impressed and was promptly snapped up by Ryman League side Kingstonian.

From there, he went to Mansfield before being signed by Gray on a tribunal deal this summer.

"I always found FootballCV.com to be very helpful and their trials not only put you in the spotlight but were also a very good experience," said the midfielder.

"I hope my story helps persuade the older FootballCV.com members that non-League is a very good route into professional football."

Coke, won't be the only player on Northampton Town's books next year

with a tie-up with FootballCV.com after 16-year-old Odysseas Economide signed a two-year scholarship with the league outfit, something the youngster is very much looking forward to.

"It means a great deal for FootballCV.com, being based in Northamptonshire, to see one of our first success stories, Giles Coke, sign for Northampton Town," explains academy managing director Graham Sarmer.

"This, coupled with one of our younger members also joining them from our academy, is a great boost and hopefully other members and academy players can see what they can achieve with the support of FootballCV.com."

"I wish both players the best of luck at the Cobblers."

With the list of released players growing each year, an increased number of professionals are finding themselves without clubs.

But with such a wealth of talent available every year, sorting the suitable from the unsuitable can be an arduous task, though it is one the likes of Town first-team coach Ian Sampson is happy to take on.

"I have personally attended FootballCV.com trials days in the past and always found them very useful," said Sampson, who undertakes a lot of the scouting duties at Sixfields.

"The club has now benefited with the signing of Odysseas for the youth team and it is great to see Giles, one of their first members, joining the club."