

Football unites to pay tribute to army son of Terry Butcher

The world of football has united in mourning following the tragic death of the son of former Ipswich Town and England captain Terry Butcher.

Former Army captain Christopher Butcher, 35, died on Monday, his family announced on Facebook. He had served in Afghanistan with the Royal Artillery.

His younger brother Ed wrote: "Chris you were my hero, you were my best friend and you were someone I would throw myself in the way of a truck for.

"Thank you for everything you ever taught me. I will miss you for the rest of my life but you will never be forgotten."

He said Christopher was the "best brother", adding: "His death has hit the entire family hard."

His father Terry Butcher, who lives in Suffolk, made over 250

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appearances for Ipswich Town during the 1970s and 1980s. He was captain of Town in the mid-1980s before joining Rangers.

"The family are together and we will release the dates of the funeral in due time," added Ed Butcher. "We know how greatly he was loved and we're sorry that we can't call every person who knew him to tell them."

Ipswich Town managing director Ian Milne said: "All at Ipswich Town are very shocked and deeply saddened to hear the news of the passing of Terry's son Christopher.

"We have fond memories of Chris who was at a number of games at the club with Terry last season and came across as a lovely



Terry Butcher, left, is mourning the loss of his son Christopher, 35, right, a former Army captain.

Pictures: PA

and charming guy who was clearly enjoying spending time with his dad.

"All our thoughts and condolences are with Terry and his family at this very sad time."

The news comes ahead of the East Anglian derby between Ipswich and Norwich City at Portman Road on Sunday.

The club is planning to honour the memory of Christopher before the midday kick-off.

Kevin Beattie, a former teammate of Terry Butcher, said

it was a "sad day for the club".

He added: "It's so upsetting. You don't expect any of your children to go before you. I'm so sorry for his family. Butch is a big lad but it will be a big blow. He loves his kids. It'll leave a big hole."

Football host Mark Pougatch wrote on Twitter: "Terry Butcher is among the finest & funniest of men. Please keep him & his family in your thoughts - & if you're so inclined - prayers."

Norwich City FC and Rangers FC also paid respect on Twitter.