

Dick Malone

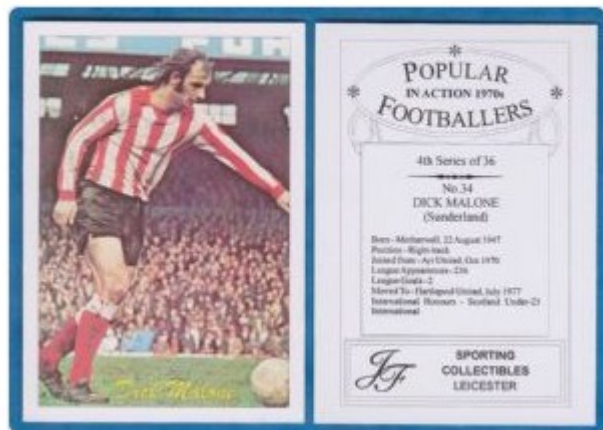
"All The Lads", one of the essential reference books for Sunderland supporters tells us Dick Malone made a total of 276 appearances for Sunderland, won an FA Cup medal, and scored 2 goals. One came in his first season for us, when he scored the winner against Orient on 9th April 1971, the other almost four years later, against Portsmouth, the day before Ian Porterfield sustained his career-ending injury.

I saw one of those goals.

It must have been the one against Orient because the weather was warm and sunny, so Ed and I decided to watch the match from the Roker End, the only time I ever went in there. It was towards the end of a season in which we'd been comfortably mid-league and the match was being played in that spirit until Dick Malone ambled into the opponents' half, got possession and unleashed a totally unexpected strike from outside the box. I was in the direct line of the flight and the ball flew unstoppably yet took forever to hit the net. The keeper had no chance - as good a goal as you will ever see.

Dick Malone is remembered for his FA Cup performance, and I have to say his kicking the ball away after Montgomery's double save is still with me. But I'm one of the privileged few who remember more than that. I can also remember that rocket going in and the look on his face when it did.

Sunderland Dick Malone



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