

Everyone remembers Jimmy Montgomery's double save at Wembley on May 5 1973.

Thoughts of Monty's heroics can still send shivers down the spines of fans old enough to remember - and also those not even born then but still cherishing a magical part of the Sunderland AFC folklore.

And the images are familiar the world over to countless football fans lured by the romance of upstarts from the second tier defying the elite of the first.

But this was not Monty's finest match. **I say so and so does he.**

That had come 10-and-a-half years earlier at Huddersfield. The scoreline - an emphatic sounding 3-0 to SAFC with two goals from Brian Clough and one from George Mulhall - tells only part of the story.

For much of the first half, Huddersfield did everything right but score, pounding the Sunderland goal with attempt after attempt. There to stop them was Monty, who pulled off one world class save after the other to keep us level, flying through the air to catch, tip over or push round the post all that the home side could throw at him.

Our second-half goals showed we could attack as well as defend and we went second top (albeit in a season, 1962-63, that would end in heartbreak when Chelsea beat us at Roker Park in our last game of the season in a match described at [the Chelsea FC site](#) as "hard fought, often brutal". They stole our promotion place by seeing off Pompey 7-0 three days later.



When I [interviewed Monty](#) for **Salut! Sunderland's** coverage of the 40th anniversary off the 1973 FA Cup final, I already knew he shared my view about the Huddersfield performance (Pete Sixsmith had met him on a train returning from a Sunderland match and they'd talked about it). I asked anyway:

Q: "So do you think the Wembley double save was the best of your career?"

A: "I think I made better."

Q: "Well, the best memory of you I have is at Huddersfield in 1962. Do you remember than one?"

A: "That was probably the best game I ever played! We were battered for 45 minutes and then came out and won it 3-0."

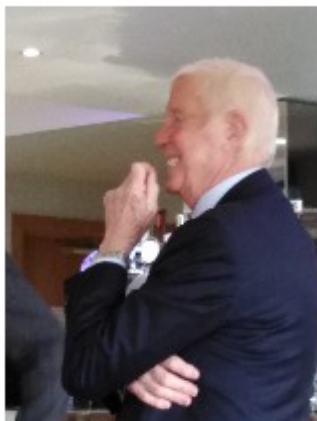
Sixer was at the game, too, and rightly rebuked me when I foolishly waved my Sunderland scarf in the general direction of a Huddersfield supporter's face as we returned to the station. The home fan didn't see the joke but Sixer saved me from deserved retribution by suggesting we quicken our pace.

And now scroll down for the bit extra brought to you by Malcolm Dawson after his unintended Twitter leak!



Monty with Peter Lynn aka Wrinkly Pete

Monty played a total of 623 games for Sunderland over the course of 17 years and of course his only major honour was an F A Cup winner's medal, fully deserved for the double save that Colin alluded to, anyone who watched the 73 Final will remember and which is extensively used on television when producers seek to emphasise the romance of the competition.



But Monty has another cup winner's medal. On leaving Sunderland he went on to play for Vancouver Whitecaps, Birmingham City and had a loan spell at Charlton Athletic but it is often forgotten that Brian Clough, when manager of Nottingham Forest signed his former team mate as cover for England custodian Peter Shilton. Monty never played a single minute for Forest, but by virtue of being on the bench at the Bernerbeu Stadium in Madrid he was to be presented with a European Cup Winners' medal when Forest defeated Hamburg 1-0 – a side which included Kevin Keegan.

On the occasions when I have been in Monty's presence I have itched to ask him whether or not he gets any satisfaction from the award but have been reluctant to do so. He might not have got on the pitch but he was kitted up and ready to take the field if required so who's to say that it wasn't fully deserved.

And although he was called on to play several times for England Under 23s he never got the full international cap his ability and performances truly merited, leading many to believe that he was the best ever English goalkeeper never to play for the national side.