

OBITUARIES

RONNIE SIMPSON †

11 October 1930 - 20 April 2004

Ronnie SIMPSON, one of Great Britain's goal-keepers in the 1948 Olympic Football tournament has died of a heart attack aged 73.

He had a magnificent playing career at the top level winning a European Champions Cup medal in a career which spanned a quarter of a century.

SIMPSON had been born in Glasgow in October 1930. He made his debut for the famous Scottish amateur club *Queens Park* when he was still two months short of his 15th birthday.

Great Britain team manager Matt BUSBY selected him as one of the goalkeepers for the 1948 Olympic Football tournament. Still only 17 he played in the first round match against the Netherlands and in the playoff which saw the hosts finish fourth, their best post war Olympic performance.



After a brief spell with the now defunct Third Lanark, he moved to the English giants *Newcastle United* where he played in their FA Cup winning teams of 1952 and 1955.

But his greatest moments came late in his career. Aged 36, he finally won his first Scotland cap and was a member of the side which beat World Cup holders England at Wembley in 1967.

That same year he was Celtic's goalkeeper when they became the first British team to win the European

Champions Cup beating *Inter-nazionale Milan* in the final. Members of that team have ever since been known as "The Lisbon Lions" and SIMPSON was called the "father".

In his later years he remained in close contact with the Celtic club, working in their hospitality suites on match days.

Philip D. Barker