

Hayter hopes for another career high

BY CHRIS SWEET

James Hayter may already have achieved a childhood dream to score the winner at Wembley, but he is targeting a repeat with Yeovil Town.

The experienced striker further enhanced his popularity at Doncaster by settling 2008's Yorkshire derby at Wembley, sinking Leeds in the League One play-off final.

Hayter – who made his name with more than 400 appearances for his local club AFC Bournemouth – climbed highest at a second-half corner to head beyond Leeds goalkeeper Casper Ankergrén and fire Rovers into the Championship for the first time in more than 50 years.

Not only did the goal end a four-month drought for Hayter, but it provided the highlight of his career to date. The 33-year-old arrived at Huish Park in the summer following his release from Doncaster, but was recognised by his former club upon his return to the Keepmoat Stadium with Yeovil in February when presented with a plaque marking the strike before kick-off.

Although few moments are likely to surpass the emotions experienced during the immediate aftermath of his Wembley winner, Hayter said he hoped to reach similar heights with the Glovers by adding to a season goal tally already at 16.

"It was a bit of a blur after, but I have seen it a few times now," he said.

"It was just after half-time and a header from a corner that put us 1-0 up. We had played really well and in the first half we should have been 2-0 or 3-0 ahead. After we scored Leeds put us under pressure, but we held on and the rest is history.

"That's definitely the best day of my career so far. To score the winner at Wembley and in cup finals is what every child dreams of.

"It was unbelievable to go

there and play in a Yorkshire derby in front of 70,000 fans.

"We were the underdogs on the day against Leeds, but we managed to pull off a result and I scored the winner.

"That's the highlight of my career and to go there and do something with Yeovil would be right up there."

Hayter's first competitive Yeovil goals came against Sunday's opponents Brentford, who were beaten by League One champions Doncaster to deny them a place in the automatic promotion spots on the final day of the season.

Despite Doncaster's superior resources and boasting a bigger stature than Yeovil, Isle of Wight-born Hayter said the atmosphere at Huish Park entering the final was similar to that of his former club.

He said: "It's very similar, to be honest. We have done really well all season and done brilliantly to first get to the play-offs. To win over the two legs has been excellent against a big team like Sheffield United. We will go into the final with confidence.

"It's obviously going to be a tough game against Brentford as they have got some really good players, but we have got a confidence in the squad.

"I thought we played really well against Sheffield United and deserved the result. If we can play like that again we have a good chance of winning the game. We have played at places like Bramall Lane in front of 20,000 people, so the players have got used to that and for the home leg of the play-off semi-finals we had a big crowd for Yeovil.

"I thought the lads overcame that brilliantly, they played really well and can take a lot from that, going into the final confident that they can perform in front of the cameras. We have just got to take that to Wembley, play our game and, if we can play like we did against Sheffield United, we will have a great chance."



Yeovil Town front man James Hayter scored the winner in the 2008 play-off final

PICTURE: ADRIAN HOPPER

Foley is determined to taste victory on his Wembley return

BY CHRIS SWEET

Having already tasted Wembley defeat, Yeovil Town attacker Sam Foley is ready to cap an unforgettable season by righting that wrong.

The industrious forward has proved an instant hit at Huish Park since arriving from then-non-league Newport County in the summer.

His performances on the wing have led to comparisons with Croatia international Niko Kranjcar, making him a fans' favourite.

However, Foley returns to the national stadium on

Sunday hungry to beat Brentford and, in the process, put to rest demons of 12 months ago.

The 26-year-old's final game for County came at Wembley in last year's FA Trophy final, the Amber Army defeated 2-0 by York City.

Foley said: "As much respect as I have for Newport and that level of football, it's not as big a game that we're going to be involved in on Sunday.

"If anything, that acted as a rehearsal for me.

"This is a proper game now, the world's pretty much watching and it's by no means just another game. I'm looking for-

ward to it massively. It's a huge thing to play at Wembley, but I'm over that now. That sounds



Sam Foley is back at Wembley for a second time

a big thing to say, but I've played there and now I want to go back there and win a game because it's not very nice going

there and losing, which is a horrible feeling.

"People say 'You played at Wembley, that must feel amazing' but for about three weeks later I was saying I didn't enjoy it at all. You go there to win and I would have rather have gone to a smaller ground and lost.

"Winning at Wembley is the biggest thing for a footballer to do in their career."

Foley is one of only three current Yeovil players to have taken to the Wembley turf.

Jamie McAllister was captain when Bristol City lost to Hull in the 2008 Championship play-off final, while James

Hayter scored the winner for Doncaster against Leeds in the League One equivalent in the same year.

Rather than their inexperience counting against them, Foley believes the youth of the squad will work in their favour against the Bees.

He said: "The thing with youth and youthful exuberance is that they take every game as it comes, there are no pre-conceived ideas and what they see goes, which is great really. That's probably why we are where we are in the league and why we are playing at Wembley."