First Citizens Sports Foundation

HALL OF FAME



Bridget Adams

Netball

Inducted in 2015

"My guiding principles were excellence, respect, courage and passion. Set achievable goals. Achieving a goal can be a tremendous motivator. Set goals that can be accomplished because reaching those goals will be rewarding to your sporting career." Those words of advice from Bridget Adams sum up the perspective of a netball player with a never-say-die attitude, and with the medals and titles to back it up.

Born in Mayaro, Adams was introduced to the sport at the Mayaro Government School when she was watching her older sister getting ready to play. The team was short one player, so they asked the young Bridget to fill in. The school coach liked what she saw and encouraged Adams to further her game, which bore fruit when she was selected for the Primary Schools National Team in 1977. The team attended the Caribbean championships in St Vincent later that year with Adams taking the Goal Shoot position, debuting with a fantastic 77 out of the 79 points that Trinidad and Tobago scored.



With such shooting talent, she graduated to the Secondary Schools Team, as well as the Under 21 team. Netball was on a high at the time, with the national team recording excellent results and the country gearing up to host the Word Championship in 1979. Adams was now playing for Jean Pierre's team, the Pan Am Marvelites, in the Port of Spain Netball League (POSNL), and got close to the local legend who was also playing the Goal Shooter position and coaching her young charge.

During that 1979 Worlds, Adams stayed at Pierre's home, soaking up the atmosphere and travelling with the team to and from matches as they landed Trinidad and Tobago's first world title in any team sport. The experience was priceless and prepared Adams for taking over the position when Pierre retired. Though still a teenager and later admitting to nerves from having to fill Pierre's shoes, she came through the trials and landed the Goal Shoot position in the senior team. Her first major engagement was the 1980 Caribbean Championship, which Trinidad and Tobago won.

Meanwhile, the Marvelites – with Adams in their line-up – won the 1980 POSNL title and would go on to win it every season until 1985. Adams would also lead the league in shooting from 1982 to 1986, a formidable weapon in the Marvelites' artillery. Another win at the 1982 Caribbean Championship showed that Trinidad and Tobago was preparing well for the defence of their world title in 1983 in Singapore. Many of the stalwarts had retired, but players like Adams represented a new generation eager to continue the world-class performances.

The team comfortably made it to the final round, where they defeated England 43-40 but lost to Australia and New Zealand – the two teams

that would finish above them in the final standings – and Adams and her teammates received the bronze medal.

She returned to Trinidad and continued within POSNL and Caribbean Cup domination, as the national squad took the regional title from 1983 to 1986. Adams also showed her versatility during this period, letting others play in the Goal Shoot position while she tried out (and enjoyed) playing as Goal Attack, Wing Attack and Wing Defence. It added a greater dimension to her all-round game, something that Adams would later state was vital to being able to adapt to opposition tactics.

1987 was another World Championship year, held in Scotland. Trinidad and Tobago signalled their intention by topping their group of eight teams with an unbeaten run that included a one-point win over defending champs Australia. In the final round they defeated England 42-33, drew with Australia 46-46, and lost to New Zealand 49-37. For Adams, it was one step higher up the podium as she collected her silver medal, maintaining Trinidad and Tobago's position as one of the world's top three teams.

In 1988 she was named the Trinidad and Tobago captain and, in 1989, Adams was named Most Outstanding Player of the Caribbean Championship. These complemented her incredible run of Individual Shooting Competition titles in the same tournament from 1983 to 1989. Trinidad and Tobago did not send a team to the 1991 Worlds but that did not deter Adams' form. She had an outstanding season that included winning another Shooting competition at the regional tournament with a perfect record: 20 goals from 20 attempts, which had never been achieved before and, as of 2022, had not been repeated. She was also

selected as captain for a West Indies team that toured England and Wales that summer, which Adams names as one of the proudest moments of her career. A great year was capped when Adams was named Sportswoman of the Year 1991.

Adams remained captain until 1993 but remained in the Trinidad and Tobago squad to take part in one final World Championship, held in England in 1995. The team again topped their group but faltered in the second round to finish an eventual 6th.

With both her club and international competitive careers winding down, Adams actively pursued education with a view to remaining within the sports sector. She earned a Master's Degree in Sports Management and a Ph.D. in Sports Studies. She became the Honorary Secretary and Head of the Coaching Programme of the Americas Federation Netball Association, is a member of the International Netball Federation Coaching Panel, and is a part-time lecturer at the University of Trinidad & Tobago. In 2008 she guided Trinidad and Tobago to the Americas Championship title, while in 2010 she took the team to 8th place at the Commonwealth Games.

An electrifying player on court and an electrifying advocate of the game off-court, she was honoured by the opening of the Bridget Adams Netball Court in her native Mayaro and was inducted into the Trinidad and Tobago Sports Hall of Fame in 2015.

Netball World Championship: **1983 Bronze**
1987 Silver

Caribbean Championship:	**1980-86, 1988, 1992-93**
Caribbean Championship MVP:	**1989**
Caribbean Championship Best Shooter:	**1983-1989, 1991**
POSNL:	**1980-85, 1990-93**
Sportswoman of the Year:	**1991**