First Citizens Sports Foundation

HALL OF FAME



Carolyn Bart

Hockey

Inducted in 2004

As one of the most prolific goal scorers in local hockey, Carolyn Bart was always going to graduate to the Trinidad and Tobago national women's team, but she also left an unforgettable mark on the sport, enabling its progression throughout its greatest period of growth, the 1970s and 1980s.

As a star athlete in Holy Name Convent, Port of Spain, Bart first picked up a hockey stick playing for her school in the Secondary School League of the 1960s. Her abilities caught the eye of the Rockets club and, upon leaving school in 1969, she joined their team which was building up towards becoming one of the best squads over the next decade. Within a year in the senior ranks, Bart was on the national B Team. By 1971 she was on the first team proper. Her speed and agility perfectly suited her preferred position of inside right forward, giving her the means to attack both defenders and goalkeepers with relish.



As Rockets started to challenge established team such as Malvern, Paragon, Magnolias and Ventures – even being named Team of the Year 1971 – Bart was the major contributor to that progress; between 1972 and 1975 she scored 60 goals.

Replicating her role for Trinidad and Tobago, she played in a remarkable 2-2 draw with the perennial powerhouse, the Netherlands, at the Queen's Park Oval, by far the best result for Trinidad and Tobago women's hockey at that stage. It proved to be a springboard; in 1973 Trinidad hosted the Caribbean Championships and the team, including Bart, shared the title with Jamaica.

The following year the team were intent on winning the title outright when the tournament was held in Barbados. That they duly achieved, creating further impetus for the growth of the women's game. Participation at a global level followed when Bart took part in the International Federation of Women's Hockey Association tournament. It was the forerunner to the hockey World Cup and, at the time it was the largest competition ever held for the women's game. It was a learning experience for Bart and her teammates, but they did secure victory over Austria, 1-0.

Bart returned to Trinidad duty at the 1976 and 1978 Caribbean Championships and was named Most Outstanding Forward of the latter tournament. She was made captain of the national team in 1982 as Trinidad and Tobago hosted the regional tournament once again. The team did not win, and Bart retired from the Trinidad and Tobago team at its completion, after a decade of national duty. However, she continued to play for Rockets until 1986.

That was the year that Trinidad and Tobago women's hockey won its most significant title, with CAC Games gold in Santo Domingo. They would go on to have a proud record at the CAC, with further gold medals in 2002 and 2010, and bronze medals in 1990, 1993 and 2018. The foundation for those successes waas laid by the likes of Carolyn Bart, fearless players that lifted the standard of their sport. As such, she was inducted into the Trinidad and Tobago Sports Hall of Fame in 2004.