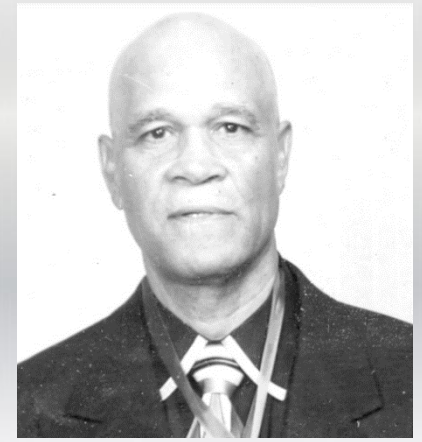
First Citizens Sports Foundation

HALL OF FAME



Kelvin Stephen Berassa

Football

Inducted in 2004

This aggressive forward was part of a golden age for club football in Trinidad, an age that pooled all its competitive talent and produced a squad that still holds the most impressive results of any incarnation of any national team.

St. Joseph born Kelvin Berassa – affectionately known as 'KB' – was a fixture of 1960s football and left his mark in the history books as well as the back of the opposition's net. A team man, he was a jovial character that was able to relax a dressing room, but he was also a hard worker when it came to training. On game day, KB was a quick thinker who, despite his dribbling ability that allowed him to go past defenders, would still look to include his teammates. His running off the ball terrorized the opposition and he could produce great headers, but local footballers all agree that KB's greatest asset was his uncanny natural ability to create space on the field for both himself and his team.

His style of play was even given a name: the 'Kelvin Berassa Cha Cha Cha'.

A pupil of Rosary Boys RC, he earned his centre-forward position at the Progressive Educational Institute where he finished as one of the top scorers in the Northern League in 1957, 1958 and 1959. Performances like that gained him attention and, upon graduation, KB joined one of the powerhouses of local football, Malvern. He wasted little time, helping them to the 1960 BDV Trophy as well as the National FA Trophy in 1960 and 1961, when they also finished second in the League. In the same year of his Malvern debut, 1960, KB also earned his first national cap.

Berassa then moved to the Regiment team, who were in the process of building a powerful squad to challenge the likes of Malvern and Maple. It worked. They won the 1965 Port of Spain Football League (forerunner to the national league), the first of over 20 titles that make them by far the most successful team in domestic football (Regiment became the Defense Force FC in 1972). KB was part of the team that repeated the league win in 1966, also winning the 1966 and 1967 National FA Trophy, and the 1967 BDV Trophy.

The national team were also building towards something special, honing their undoubted talent and creating the belief that they could be competitive against any opposition. Berrasa's firepower was key to the team's confidence, and he was a natural selection for the Trinidad and Tobago squad that went to the 1967 Pan Am Games in Winnipeg.

Given the opposition and that this was the first Trinidad and Tobago football team sent to a major Games, there was not a lot of hope of progress beyond the group stage. Trinidad and Tobago obliterated that sentiment; they began with a 5-2 dismantling of Colombia, after being

down 2-0 at halftime, with Berassa scoring the second goal in the 63rd minute.

They then drew 1-1 with Mexico and, in the biggest shock of all, defeated mighty Argentina 1-0. The Argentinians were in disbelief; the Trinbagonians were delirious. The goal scorer? Berassa in the 59th minute.

In the semi-final against Bermuda, a bemused Trinidad and Tobago leaked two goals and never recovered. After the euphoria of their earlier results there was initial disappointment, but the team regrouped and defeated hosts Canada 4-1 (KB scoring once in the 52nd minute) to win the bronze medal, which remains one of the major achievements of Trinidad and Tobago football.

Berassa returned home to star in the Regiment's CONCACAF Champion of Champions campaign, where they finished second in their group. Soon afterwards, KB moved to New York in 1968 where he played two seasons for Brooklyn Juniors. He returned to national duty for the 1970 World Cup qualifiers, but with only one win Trinidad and Tobago did not progress. Berassa then retired from competitive football.

He remained in the United States, worked on Wall Street, and eventually settled in Atlanta, Georgia. A prolific scorer and a player regarded as one of the all-time best centre-forwards that Trinidad and Tobago has ever produced, Kelvin Berassa was inducted into the Trinidad and Tobago Sports Hall of Fame in 2004.

Pan American Games: **1967 Bronze Football**
POS League: **Winner (1966-66)**