First Citizens Sports Foundation

HALL OF FAME



Louise Browne – Jackson

Cricket

Inducted in 2015

A true pioneer of women's cricket in the West Indies, this right-handed batter led from the front, both as opener and captain. The fifth of 12 children, Louise Browne-Jackson was born into a sporting family (her two sisters Ann and Beverly would also represent Trinidad and Tobago while her nephew would become a national hockey coach).

Women's cricket globally was in its infancy in the 1960s when Browne was playing at club level, but there was the inspiration of the exploits by the Trinidad and Tobago senior men's team and, by extension, the West Indies men's team. Fortunately, there was the development of inter-island matches to hone the regional talent, with Browne staking her claim on the national team as a methodical batter, able to wait for the bad delivery to dispatch to the boundary. She was also a keen student of the game, her analytical skill being a boon for Trinidad and Tobago, and later West Indies, when she was called upon to lead.

Her first chance to perform on the global stage came in 1973 at the inaugural Women's World Cup in England, ironically held two years before the first ever men's World Cup. The West Indies did not send a team, but Trinidad and Tobago and Jamaica did, with Browne and her sister Beverly batting at 1 and 3 respectively, and Louise installed as captain. It was not a great start; they lost to New Zealand with Louise top scoring with 21. By the 2nd match versus Australia, Louise was getting accustomed to the English conditions and again top scored, this time with 49 that included 8 boundaries.

She did not have to wait long for her maiden international 50; it came in the next match against Jamaica, again the highest score, and it helped Trinidad and Tobago to their first win, with Louise an easy winner of the Player of the Match award. She also led Trinidad and Tobago to a World Cup win over the Young England team.

With the experience of the World Cup creating the impetus for progress of regional women's cricket, the West Indies formed its Test team to play its first match against Australia in Montego Bay in 1976. Louise Browne was the natural choice as captain for the historical game, debuting with 67 and leading the team to a first innings lead before it petered out to a draw. The second match of two in the series also ended in a draw, but not before Louise scored another half-century with 52 in the second innings.

Later, in 1976, she led the team to India where the Windies won one Test, lost one and drew four matches. Neither West Indies or Trinidad and Tobago sent a team to the 2nd Women's World Cup in India, so Browne's next international appointment was a Windies tour to England

in 1979 comprising three ODIs and three Tests. This time, Patricia Whittaker of Barbados was the Windies skipper. Browne shone in the 3rd ODI, knocking out a steady 45 as West Indies chased down 167 to win with two balls remaining. It was their first victory over England as once again Browne top scored.

She did not fare as well in the Test matches, with modest scores of 20 and 0 in the 1st Test, and she did not play in the remaining two Tests due to injury. She returned to domestic cricket and to playing for Trinidad and Tobago in the Women's Cricket Federation Championships (it would later become the Women's Super50), where the team had finished second to Jamaica in 1977. Browne played competitive cricket until the mid-1980s and immediately moved into administration within the women's game. This led to her stint as Team Manager for the USA Women's team in the 2010s, with its twin objectives of progressing through the world rankings and developing the sport throughout the country. It was the type of pioneering effort that Browne knew all about.

The first Trinidad and Tobago captain in a One Day International, the first to a half century, she finished with 348 Test runs – which as at 2022 was still the leading figure for a Trinidad and Tobago woman player – and a healthy 33.14 average in ODIs. She was at the helm when the Windies played their first Test match – an event that opened the doors for how the sport developed and for events such as the T20 Women's World Cup win in 2016. Louise Browne-Jackson paved the way and was inducted into the Trinidad and Tobago Sports Hall of Fame in 2015.

Matches: Test 9; ODI 8

Batting: Test 348 runs, Average 29.00, Fifties 2; ODI 232 runs, Average 33.14, Fifties 1

Fielding: Test catches 4; ODI catches 1