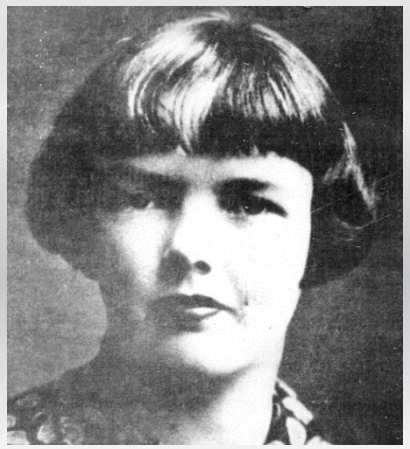
First Citizens Sports Foundation

HALL OF FAME



Alice Mildred Cambridge

Lawn Tennis

Inducted in 1985

Winning national titles from the 1930s through to the 1960s is a remarkable feat, one that is the domain of few athletes. Alice Mildred Cambridge is one of those few that can lay claim to such a noteworthy achievement, playing with and against other Trinidad and Tobago lawn tennis luminaries throughout her distinguished career.

Though her longevity was in tennis, she began her sporting career in hockey, distinguishing herself as full back for the Wanderers team that dominated the era. By 1929 she was playing in the same position for the national hockey team, though games were limited with some of the other colonies having not yet formed national squads. Cambridge would go on to represent Trinidad and Tobago hockey for a decade. Playing tennis simultaneously, she rose through the ranks quickly and earned her first national title in 1936 when she partnered with Dolly Fisher to take the Ladies Doubles title.



By 1938, Cambridge had won her first national Singles title, then paired up with Fisher a year later to repeat their Doubles win.

By the 1940s Cambridge was at the peak of her powers and was unstoppable in local tennis. She rattled off five Singles wins in a row, from 1944 to 1948. Amazingly, she did so without employing any backhand strokes, instead Cambridge used a style of scooping the ball with a forehand stroke from close to her body.

If there was any notion of Cambridge slowing down into the 1950s, no one told her. She was even more prolific than the previous decade, adding more Doubles titles to the Singles that she had made her own. In 1950, 1952, 1953, 1957 and 1959 she won the Singles; on the last three occasions she won the triple crown of a Singles, Doubles (with Odette Galt and Anita De Verteuil) and Mixed Doubles (with Jin Ho and Alan Price): every title that was available to her in a given year.

Cambridge won the 1961 Singles title, an occasion that marked 25 years since she first tasted national success, before partnering with De Verteuil to take the Doubles crown. A year later she teamed up with one of the best male players at the time, Michael Valdez, to seal the Mixed Doubles title. She was slowing down by 1965, but continued the winning lineage with another Doubles title, again with De Verteuil.

1966 would be her last year. At the age of 55 and a bulging trophy cabinet, her appetite for victory was still insatiable. A player of Cambridge's pedigree could only retire in the manner that she was accustomed: winning. She won her final Singles title, teaming up with fellow Hall of Famer, Alan Price, to easily win the Mixed Doubles, and

doing the same with Yvonne Trestrail for the Doubles title. It was her fourth triple crown and a fitting end to her competitive career in tennis.

International options were limited because of the era, with very little competitive play between Trinidad and Tobago and other nations. However, tournaments were arranged by the bigger clubs such as British Guiana's Demerara Club and Savannah Tennis Club of Barbados. In these tournaments, Cambridge usually emerged victorious. In 1947 Jean Quertier – hard court triple champion of Northern England – visited Trinidad and played Cambridge, with the Trinidad and Tobago champion winning 6-1, 7-9, 6-3. Two years later, Cambridge and Ian McDonald were selected to represent Trinidad and Tobago at the Caribbean Championships held at Montego Bay, where she came up against American Virginia Lee Boyer and won 4-6, 12-10, 6-3.

Cambridge served on the Northern Lawn Tennis Council for many years after her retirement and also donated the Cambridge Cup for the B class inter-club competition.

Few athletes can point to a collection of national titles such as the one created by Cambridge. Between 1938 and 1962, the only years that she did not win a national title were 1949 and 1951, an unfathomable streak of consistency. As such, Alice Mildred Cambridge was inducted into the Trinidad and Tobago Sports Hall of Fame in 1985.

National Singles title: 1938, 1942, 1944-48, 1950, 1952-53, 1957, 1959, 1961, 1966

National Doubles title: 1936, 1939, 1947, 1950, 1953, 1957, 1959, 1961, 1965, 1966

National Mixed Doubles title: 1953, 1957, 1959, 1962, 1966