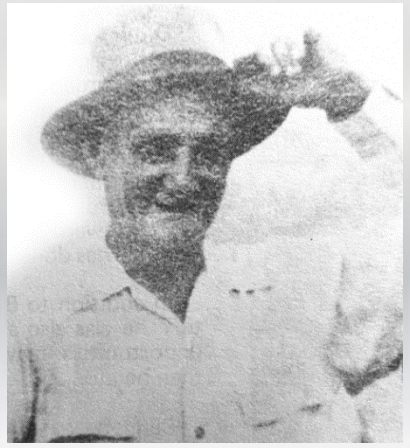
First Citizens Sports Foundation

HALL OF FAME



Donald Campbell

Horse Racing

Inducted in 1984

When he rode his first race in 1903, Donald Campbell weighed a mere 70lbs, light even by jockey's standards. But what he lacked in weight - and experience – he soon made up for with tactical nous.

That first race had no fairy tale ending. Campbell finished 2nd in a three-horse race in the Queen's Park Savannah. But soon he was flashing across the line in first place. Perhaps that should be changed to 'just flashing across the line in first place', because that was his trademark style of winning. He seldom put his horse into the wind during the race and developed the knack of timing his final run to the post with perfection, often telling his rivals "ah catch you" after the line.

His great rival for the best jockey of the early 20th century era, O.P. Bennett, remarked that "you did not know Campbell had won a race until reaching the post".

His career began riding for the owner/trainer E.A. Robinson out of the Woodford Lodge Stables. From there he moved to Pastime Stables where Campbell built upon his early success by riding Markline, Trumps, Triumph, Lady Barcarolle and Hungerton to numerous victories.

Unlike other Trinbagonian jockeys of the time, Campbell did not race on the regional circuit (Grenada, Barbados, British Guiana), racing exclusively in Trinidad. He did, however, take on all comers, including the riders from Latin America that frequented Trinidad races, and beat them.

His best victory came late in his career when he won the 1932 Derby (his only win in that classic) at the age of 47, astride Mintips. Campbell raced until 1937, with his last win achieved riding Salvanos. As with many personalities involved with horse racing, Campbell loved the sport too much to not remain involved and became a trainer immediately following his retirement. His training was not limited to the horses, for Campbell also trained jockeys. There was not the Apprentice Jockey Scheme that would be developed many decades later, so Campbell's work was critical in passing on the skills of riding to many jockeys such as Manny Paul, Abraham and Simon Joseph, Nolan Hajal, Reno and Francis Hasranah. His fatherly nature earned him the nickname 'Pa' from the horse racing fraternity, especially considering that he was training jockeys at no cost.

The records are not complete, but the consensus is that Donald Campbell earned over 500 victories in his career, and for his services to horse racing, he was inducted into the Trinidad and Tobago Sports Hall of Fame in 1984.