First Citizens Sports Foundation

HALL OF FAME



Lionel D'Arceuil

Table Tennis

Inducted in 2023

One of the mainstays of local table tennis, whose international and local success helped to spur the immense popularity of the sport in Trinidad and Tobago during the 1970s into the 1980s, Lionel D'Arceuil enjoys a measure of influence that continues to today.

Among his highlights was his capture of three titles at the 1973 Caribbean Championships in Georgetown, Guyana: the men's singles, men's doubles and the mixed doubles. The next year, he guided Trinidad and Tobago to what would be its last regional team championship for another 36 years. He won a second Caribbean singles crown three years later, in Havana, Cuba, where he defeated his compatriot Mansingh Amarsingh in the title match. During his time on the Trinidad and Tobago team, D'Arceuil formed a part of the tours to China in 1973 and Nigeria in 1975, where he helped Trinidad and Tobago to an eleventh-place finish out of 86 participating countries during the Asia-Africa-Latin Friendship Games.

This was a high point period for table tennis in Trinidad and Tobago, and D'Arceuil's membership on the BWIA Giants, a unit that included fellow mainstays Amarsingh, Winston "Reds" Mulligan and Derek De Silva, was a Dream Team-like microcosm of the era. Of course, D'Arceuil, who was originally from D'Abadie, more than pulled his own weight reputation-wise, thanks to his personal triumphs. After cutting his table tennis teeth at the D'Abadie Community Centre, he moved on to the Tunapuna Tigers as he captured the national junior crown, along with Classified singles titles at the C, B, and eventually, A levels. He won the national men's singles gold medal in 1974 and added TTTTA men's doubles and mixed doubles accolades to his résumé, along with local team titles with both the Tigers and the Giants.

D'Arceuil continued to win various other established local events over the decades after he moved from the Giants to the Arima Hawks in 1981, including the Texaco Championship and both the Silver Bowl (1998 and 1999) and the Sugar & Energy Festival tournament (1999), by which time he was in his late-40s. In 2009 he proved a major point about endurance and determination when he captured the TTTTA national singles title at the age of 59.

Lionel D'Arceuil was inducted into the Trinidad and Tobago Sports Hall of Fame in 2023.