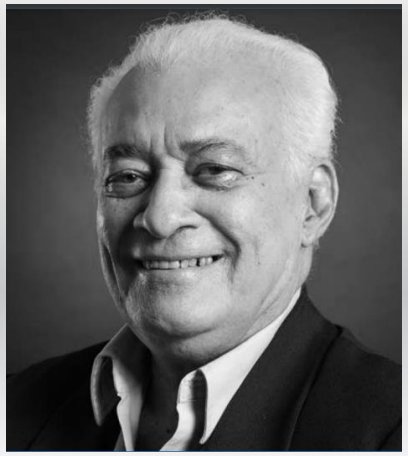
First Citizens Sports Foundation

HALL OF FAME



Bryan Davis

Cricket

Inducted in 2015

A tremendous contributor to the game both on and off the field, Bryan Allan Davis' life is one fully immersed in cricket, which has benefitted teams, his nation, fellow players, and fans.

Like his brother Charlie, Bryan grew up in Belmont, Port of Spain, with the Queen's Park Savannah as his playground. His early interest in cricket was nurtured at St. Mary's College by legendary coach (and fellow Hall of Famer), Kelvin 'Pa' Aleong. Under Aleong's expert eye and through his infamous training sessions at the Savannah, Davis learnt the basics of forward and backward movement before the repertoire of strokes, which was Aleong's trademark approach.

He also learnt to value his wicket, something that would stand him in good stead when his ambition, at Aleong's suggestion, was to become an opening batsman.

Though still a schoolboy, the standard of cricket was high. “I played for St. Mary’s in the North Zone which was the senior grade and you played against people who were playing for Trinidad, which is what would be called ‘Premier 2’ in Trinidad now.” Soon, he was made captain of the St. Mary’s First XI, no easy task as his team did not win often against teams made up of players senior in age to the schoolboys. But Davis saw the silver lining, looking at their participation as a breeding ground for greatness, even if it was by baptism of fire.

His trajectory continued to the North Colts team (under 20s), where he was made captain. While fulfilling those duties, he made his national team debut in 1960 in the regional four-day tournament, opening the innings and scoring 24 and 49 against Jamaica. He emphasized his class with a score of 62 against the visiting Marylebone Cricket Club the following season, then scored 68 and 74 versus English team E.W. Swanston’s XI in 1961, before posting 57 against India in a 1962 warm-up match. His consistency was clear: as an opener he could be relied upon to bank a half century in almost every match that he played. With continuing solid performances for Trinidad and Tobago and his club, Queen’s Park Cricket Club (QPCC), he was now in the frame for the regional team and earned that prestigious West Indies cap when Australia toured the Caribbean in 1965.

He was installed at the top of the order when regular opener, Seymour Nurse, got injured, making his debut on his home ground at QPCC for the 2nd Test. The man expected to continue his habit of scoring half-centuries did not disappoint, scoring 54 and 58 in a drawn affair. 28 and 17 were his contributions in the 3rd Test at Guyana as Windies won, and at

Bridgetown he posted 8 and 68, the latter score part of 145 opening partnership with Conrad Hunte. 4 and 8 in the 5th and final Test was not the way he wanted to finish the series, but he had contributed to a 2-1 West Indies win in what was considered an unofficial 'Test championship'.

Few would have thought that would be his final Test appearance, but a plethora of players were vying for the opening positions for the regional team. Davis focused on his own game and earned selection for the 1966/67 tour to India where he did not play any Test matches but registered 51 and 54 in separate warm-up matches against a Prime Minister's XI and Indian Board XI. In 1967 he scored a mammoth 188 not out for North verses South in the Beaumont Cup.

Performances such as that cemented Davis' reputation as a dependable batsman and earned him a place at County Cricket team Glamorgan for the 1968 season. Davis flourished in the grind that is the county circuit, from May to September, achieving the batsman's standard of 1,000 runs in his second year, made sweeter as Glamorgan won their second County Championship 21 years after their first. In 1970 his batting was even better, as he scored 1,500 runs. 1970 was also the year that Trinidad and Tobago finally won the Shell Shield under 'Joey' Carew and with Davis an integral part of the effort, his 90 and 79 not out against Barbados a crucial factor in the eventual victory. His average for the series was a remarkable 70.50. When Trinidad and Tobago defended the regional title in 1971, Davis – batting in the middle order – was again a part of the history-making squad.

He retired from first-class cricket after that season and started to occupy various managerial positions at QPCC, while also taking stints such as the Manager's role when West Indies beat Australia 3-1 in 1978, before he started what would become a critical cog for Trinidad and Tobago and West Indies cricket.

Within QPCC, Davis established a cricket school for youths in the early 1980s, creating a professionally run hub that attracted the best talent from across Trinidad. By the 1990s he had numerous coaches working to his standard at QPCC, where his scouting eye would unearth such talents as Dwayne and Darren Bravo, Kieron Pollard and Sunil Narine. Global superstars passed through Davis' hands, and when the global game embraced the new T20 format, Davis was able to adapt and impart his knowledge to the next batch of Trinidad and Tobago players. His contribution to lifting the standard of local cricket has been immense, a fact that has been immortalized in the naming of the Bryan Davis Indoor Cricket Centre at QPCC.

Possessing such cricket intelligence has made him a sought-after commentator and regular writer about regional cricket. Davis has become a go-to luminary whose viewpoint is respected by all cricket fans. A life so immersed in cricket that now Trinidad and Tobago cricket and Bryan Davis are inseparable entities, as such he was inducted into the Trinidad and Tobago Sports Hall of Fame in 2015.

Matches: Test 4; First Class 112

Batting: Test 245 runs, Average 30.62, Fifties 3; First Class 6,231 runs, Average 34.81, Hundreds 5, Fifties 46

Bowling: First Class Wickets 9, Average 48.22

Fielding: Test catches 1, First Class Catches 127

English County Championship: 1969 (Glamorgan)

Shell Shield: 1970, 1971