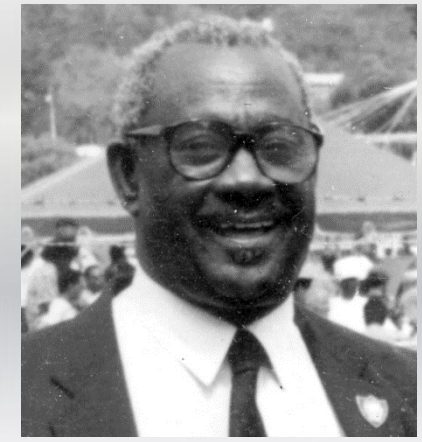
First Citizens Sports Foundation

HALL OF FAME



Eric "Colt" Durant

(Posthumous)

Trainer

Inducted in 2004

1,865 victories. Over $23 million in earnings. Those are the staggering figures achieved by this horse trainer whose name is forever etched in the annals of Caribbean racing.

Born in Barbados, Eric 'Colt' Durant grew up around horses and, by the age of 13 – when he came to Trinidad – he was already an established horse groom for the Barbados champion, Nylon. Responsible for Nylon's care and welfare, Durant's reputation was set when the horse won the 1945 Trinidad Derby at the Queen's Park Savannah.

He worked at Marbella's Union Park (this was before horseracing was centralized to Santa Rosa Park) and would not officially become a trainer until 1959 when he took out a Public Trainer's License from the Trinidad Turf Club; but he wasted little time unleashing his charges onto the sport. His first winner was Annapurna, part of three wins in 1959.

It would be the beginning of a dominant display for Durant, who would go on to win every major horse racing event on the Trinidad and Tobago calendar at least once.

Amongst those thousand plus wins are 211 feature victories, including his eight Derby winners: Decorum (1964), Pegasus Plus (1966), Royal Colours (1982), Royal Salute (1983), Conquest (1985), Bucks Nugget (1987), Flag Woman (1991), Renegade (1993). It was a record that stood until 2021 when trainer John O'Brien got his ninth win and immediately stated, "It is a privilege to even be mentioned in the same sentence as Durant."

In addition, he won eight consecutive Gold Cups between 1971 and 1978. Durant also conquered the Easter Guineas twice. Akstatic, together with Conquest and Renegade, ensured that he won the prestigious Horse of the Year award in 1983, 1985 and 1993.

He spread his magical touch to victories abroad, winning the Barbados Derby twice with Tea Breeze in 1964 and Kimafoutiesa in 1988. In Jamaica, he trained Baree Bahin to a win in the 1986 Red Stripe Superstakes in what was a major upset.

He earned his 1,000th win in 1981 and just kept going. Durant's phenomenal win rate meant that, at the top of his game, he had over 80 winners annually. A sample reads: 1976 - 80 winners; 1980 - 85 winners; 1981 - 84 winners.

His final winner was Fruition in November 1999 and, after 57 years of continued involvement in the Sport of Kings, he retired in December 1999. Eric 'Colt' Durant, the 'Maestro of Marabella', was inducted into

the Racing Hall of Fame in 2001, followed by his induction into the Trinidad and Tobago Sports Hall of Fame in 2004.