First Citizens Sports Foundation

HALL OF FAME



Angus Eve

Football

Inducted in 2015

When a player earns 117 caps for his nation, he must be considered amongst the all-time greats to have donned the national colours. After all, earning just one cap is a tough task.

A midfielder that could double as a forward, Angus Eve was the type of attacking player that ran hard at the opposition, a tactic that often ended with him inside the penalty box ready to unleash a shot or set up a teammate. His close control of the ball meant that he showed very little of it to defenders; they would often have to foul him or wait for space to tackle.

Eve grew up in Carenage, north-west Trinidad, playing football on the streets and fields of his area before playing for his school, Mucurapo Senior Comprehensive, in the breeding ground of many future stars, the InterCol. It was no easy feat getting into the Mucurapo team. At one stage during Eve's time there, the school had 8 players on the national under-17 team, Eve being one of them.

Though the five-foot six-inch Eve was told that he was too small for national service, his style of play soon suggested otherwise.

That national team would evolve into a regional youth powerhouse that qualified for the 1991 FIFA World Youth Tournament (later to become the Under-20 World Cup), together with Mexico, from the CONCACAF region. It was the first time that a Trinidad and Tobago football team appeared at an official global football event after the near misses for the senior men's team for the 1974 and 1990 World Cups.

The team did not progress from the group stage at the tournament in Portugal, but the experience stood the likes of Eve, Clayton Ince and Dwight Yorke in good stead for their senior football careers. For Eve, that career began three years later at the 1994 Caribbean Cup, held in Trinidad and Tobago, and won by the hosts. Eve would go on to win five more Caribbean Cup titles in 1995, 1996, 1997, 1999, 2001.

From his debut he cemented his place in the side, playing in his own words as 'a typical number 10'. By 1995 he joined the Defence Force FC, the nation's most successful team in domestic competition. In his two seasons there they won their 17th and 18th League titles before Eve departed for the newly formed Joe Public team. In 1998, they won their inaugural League title, with Eve an integral part of the team that also lifted the Caribbean Football Union Cup trophy that same season and reached the quarter-finals of the CONCACAF Champions League.

Together with his performances for Trinidad and Tobago – including a memorable 1999 match against South Africa where he was bursting down the right flank at will, setting up the first goal in a 2-0 win – earned Eve a contract abroad with Chester City of the English Football League.

He was on trial at the Kansas City Wizards of the MLS (Major League Soccer) when Chester came calling, and he decided it was better to progress his game at the home of football. He scored against Halifax Town on his debut, instantly becoming a hit with the Chester fans. Unfortunately, financial and administrative issues led to Chester being relegated and Eve did a short stint at Roda JC in the Netherlands before returning to Trinidad and Joe Public in 2000.

Throughout all these club transfers, Eve was a constant on a national team that was gaining in strength under a coach that Eve was very close to, Bertille St. Clair. It all came to fruition in the summer of 2000 at the CONCACAF Gold Cup. Trinidad and Tobago were on fire, playing some of the most attractive football of the tournament. As their strikers kept blasting in the goals, including 4 against Guatemala, 2 against Costa Rica, Eve was the vital link player, with his trademark runs and vital passes. The team made it as far as the semi-finals, still its best showing in the Gold Cup.

Qualification for the 2002 World Cup was next on the agenda. The tireless Eve (now at San Juan Jabloteh) played in 18 matches in the attempt to fulfil the dream, as Trinidad and Tobago made it to the final round of 6 teams but missed making into the top three that would go to the World Cup.

St. Clair made Eve the national captain in 2004, and the number 10 was still at the helm in 2005 when Trinidad and Tobago began the 'road to Germany' for the 2006 World Cup. A poor showing at the 2005 Gold Cup led to St. Clair being replaced by Dutchman Leo Beenhakker, who preferred to have foreign-based players in the team. Eve played his 117th

and final senior international match for his country against Colombia in Miami's Orange Bowl at the Gold Cup.

In early 2006, with Trinidad and Tobago already qualified to go to that year's World Cup, but Eve still not part of Beenhakker's plans, Eve retired from international football at the age of 33. His plan was always to go into coaching after his playing days were over, evidenced by him acquiring English FA coaching badges throughout the early 2000s and his stint as Jabloteh player/manager in 2004, winning the TT Pro League. He continued to play for Jabloteh for a couple more seasons before slotting into the role of Assistant Coach under Terry Fenwick. Eve then struck out on his own to coach the Trinidad and Tobago Under-23 team, before coaching North East Stars where they won the FA Trophy and Naparima College where they won the Secondary School Football League, both in 2014 and 2015. Eve then moved to the coaching role at Club Sando, continuing to excel, and eventually coming full circle to be named Trinidad and Tobago senior men's team coach in September 2021.

118 Trinidad and Tobago caps, 34 international goals – 12 of them in World Cup qualifiers, countless more assists: Angus Eve has indeed been a stalwart for Trinidad and Tobago football and continues to provide massive contributions to the game. As such, he was inducted into the Trinidad and Tobago Sports Hall of Fame in 2015.

National League/ Semi-pro league/

TT Pro League winner:	**1995, 1996, 1998, 2002-04**
Caribbean Cup winner:	**1994-97, 1999, 2001**
CFU Cup winner:	**1998**