First Citizens Sports Foundation

HALL OF FAME



Kenneth V. Galt C.M.T.

Football

Inducted in 1984

"His success has certainly been due, not so much to innate talent, but rather to tenacity, industry, an unparalleled love for the game and sheer stubbornness." That description from a 1944 *Footergraph* article partially sums up the reason that Kenneth Galt was a prolific scorer of goals, sometimes netting upwards of 30 per season.

The Chaguanas-born Galt showed immediate proficiency for the Beautiful Game first at Tranquility College before he moved onto the sporting hotbed that was Queen's Royal College (QRC) in the 1930s. Galt's speed and courage marked him out as a forward, fearlessly attacking defenders with his pacy runs before he unleashed his shot into the opponent's goal. No mere one trick pony, he was renowned for his dribbling skills, running past defenders before setting up a teammate to score, with the added ability to score headers from difficult angles.



Remarkably, he was advised by doctors not to play football in his teenage years due to injuries, but he persisted, training and playing secretly at first before openly turning up for QRC for secondary school matches. In 1935 he joined Shamrock upon leaving school, wasting no time establishing himself as a top scorer with 33 goals in his first season.

Two years and a bagful of goals later, he became the youngest captain of the Trinidad and Tobago national team. His team contained talented individuals like Ahamad Charles, and they were soon off to Guyana to represent the country at the Triangular Intercolonial Football Tournament in early 1938. Trinidad and Tobago won three matches, lost two and drew one against opponents British Guiana and Suriname, while Galt suffered a broken nose in a collision in the last game.

It was disappointing but Galt returned to Shamrock, continuing to add to his goal tally with displays that had newspapers across the Caribbean, such as the Jamaica Gleaner, referring to him as 'reputedly the best centre forward in the colony today'.

He returned to his southern ties – he had represented South at football, cricket and hockey – by joining Apex FC as captain in 1943. Now considered a 'veteran' by the press, albeit a very able veteran, Galt shone for his new team. In a memorable display, Apex were 0-2 down at halftime to the Soldiers team who had already beaten Galt and his men 6-2 the previous weekend. Galt began the second half as he meant to go on, dribbling through the middle and setting up his teammate's goal. He then netted three goals himself to set up a thrilling 5-3 win.

By 1946/47 Galt had the overall record for the most goals in Trinidad and Tobago first-class football and was still in the national team, undertaking

a tour to perennial football rivals Jamaica. He scored 2 goals in a 6-0 rout of Jamaica at Sabina Park; it was a fitting last trip abroad with the national squad and Galt retired from first-class football as well.

However, he was not done with the game that he loved and became an instrumental part of the Trinidad and Tobago Football Association, rising to the role of President in 1955 – a position that he would hold for 23 years.

A year later, Galt was tireless in his efforts to form a West Indian Football Federation, which eventually led to the formation of the British Caribbean Football Association in January 1957 with Galt as its first President.

A tireless performer on and off the football field, Galt was an affable character, liked by many, a man that never exuded any of the signs of class privilege that was so prevalent during his playing days. For his efforts, he was awarded the Humming Bird Silver Medal in 1972, the Chaconia Gold Medal in 1978 and was inducted into the Sports Hall of Fame in 1984.