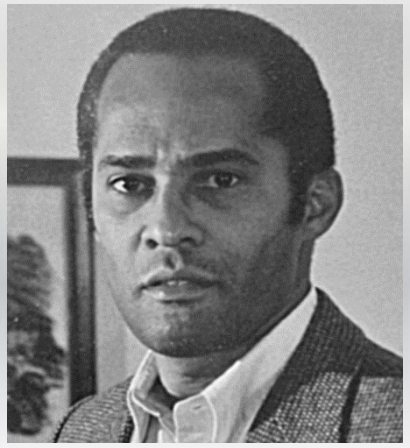
First Citizens Sports Foundation

HALL OF FAME



Victor Gamaldo

Football

Inducted in 2011

He's played against the very best in the world, charged with marking Pele, or taking on teams such as European powerhouses Dynamo Moscow. Victor Gamaldo played as a powerful 6-foot midfielder that could shoot thunderbolts from outside of the penalty box with either foot, whose skill saw him become an integral part of a Trinidad and Tobago team that created a proud legacy, as Gamaldo became one of the early Trinidad and Tobago players to enter the paid ranks of professionalism.

Like so many elite Trinbagonian sportsmen, Gamaldo was part of the Belmont/Queen's Royal College (QRC) connection. Victor was the youngest of six boys and, by the age of 14, was playing for QRC but also included in the Port of Spain Football League second division 1958 All-Star selection. Upon leaving high school, he played for Belmont based team Luton Town, before joining the Regiment team, helping them capture their inaugural League title in 1965, and defending it in 1966.

Gamaldo also lifted the National FA Trophy in 1967 with the team.

A member of the national team since 1962, Gamaldo's midfield presence was part of a squad that was progressing at a steady and unprecedented rate. They took part in Trinidad and Tobago's first ever World Cup qualifying matches during the 1965 season, while the squad moved up the standings for the CONCACAF region.

By 1967 the team was a cohesive unit that was ready to challenge for greater honours. They went to the Pan Am Games in Winnipeg full of confidence, regardless of the opposition. This was not shared by the officials, who expected the team to be eliminated after the group stage and booked their return flight dates accordingly.

Instead, the team played brilliant football and topped their group, beating Colombia 5-2 (after being 2-0 down at halftime) and Argentina 1-0, and drawing with 1-1 with Mexico. They lost to Bermuda 3-1 in the semi-final where Gamaldo scored the solitary Trinidad and Tobago goal, but recovered to beat hosts Canada 4-1 and take a well-deserved bronze medal. It was an unprecedented moment for Trinidad and Tobago football.

These performances put Galmado in the shop window and, in 1968, he signed a contract with Washington Darts to play in the American Soccer League (ASL), tasting immediate success as the team won the league in 1968 and 1969. The Darts then joined the North American Soccer League (a forerunner to Major League Soccer) and finished second in the Championship behind the Rochester Lancers in 1970, when they also captured the NASL International Cup. That year also saw him play against (and mark) the great Brazilian Pele, who was playing for Santos. Besides

South American teams, the Darts also played matches against European competition; on one memorable occasion Gamaldo scored a hat-trick against Dynamo Moscow, including two 35-metre strikes, to level the game 3-3 for his team.

He moved to the Baltimore Bays in 1972 for two seasons, adapting his play to take up a central defender position. By 1974 he closed off his career with a one season stint at the Baltimore Comets. He remained in the USA after his retirement from professional football.

In 2011, Victor Gamaldo was inducted into the Trinidad and Tobago Sports Hall of Fame.

Pan American Games: **1967 Bronze Football**

POS League: **Winner (1965, 1966)**