First Citizens Sports Foundation

HALL OF FAME



Jeanette Giorgetti-Pantin

All Rounder

Inducted in 2011

As a cyclist, she enjoyed a meteoric rise to become one of the best in the Caribbean; as a hockey player she won national trophies while still in her teens. In both sports she represented Trinidad and Tobago with aplomb.

Jeanette Giorgetti-Pantin was able to juggle playing both sports at the highest level, while also taking part in basketball. A gifted stick-player in the inside right position, her speed allowed her to cut inside of opposition defences. Initially playing for their B team, she became a prolific scorer for Red Sox and, by the age of 16, she was selected for the national squad for its tour to British Guiana. Giorgetti-Pantin would remain a fixture of the national team for the next seventeen years. Domestically, she helped Red Sox to several national knockout titles. She enjoyed cycling around the Queen's Park Savannah with friends, who suggested that she start competing, with there being no shortage of sports days across the country.



By 17 years old, she was cleaning up on the local scene, then emphasized her superiority by winning all six races that she entered at the 1952 Federation Day Games, held on the grass track at the Queen' Park Oval (QPO).

Giorgetti-Pantin had yet to taste defeat. However, she raced against the experienced Barbadian Beatrice Clarke who managed to beat Giorgetti-Pantin and spark questions as to who the best female cyclist in the Caribbean was. The question would be answered at the All-Stars Sports Meeting, held again at the QPO.

In the half-mile race Giorgetti-Pantin beat Clarke by one and a half lengths. In the mile race it was more decisive; she won by ten lengths. In 1953 she travelled to British Guiana – scene of her national hockey team debut two years earlier – for the All Women's Championship. In the Kilometre Time Trial, she won with a time of 1min 37.45secs before taking silver medals in the 400m and 800m scratch races.

Giorgetti-Pantin settled into married life and took a hiatus from competitive sport in the mid-1950s but returned to hockey in the early 1970s as one of the founders of the Eagles team, whom she helped to win the national Division C title.

In 2011, in recognition of her sporting exploits, Jeanette Giorgetti-Pantin was inducted into the Trinidad and Tobago Sports Hall of Fame.