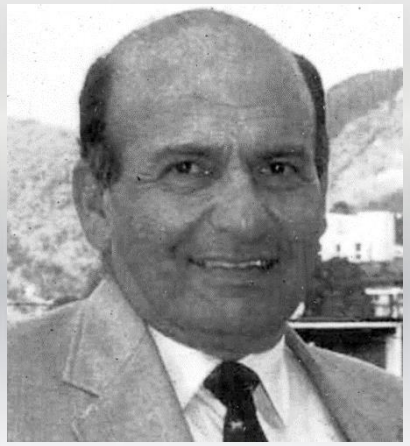
First Citizens Sports Foundation

HALL OF FAME



Joseph "Joe" Hadeed

Trainer

Inducted in 2004

When Sky Rocket crossed the post in first place at the 1986 Trinidad Derby, he had just made history as the first horse to win racing's Triple Crown. Having taken the Easter Guineas and the Midsummer Classic, the horse set a new standard, made possible by its trainer. 'Joe' Hadeed and Trinidad and Tobago horse racing are intertwined; there can barely be mention of one without the other.

His is an innate love for horses. While at Fatima College in 1952 he used to go with classmates (including fellow Hall of Famer 'Joey' Carew) to the Queen's Park Savannah to watch the horses gallop. In his own words, "I got interested by going in the Savannah with the boys. In those days, we used to go opposite the Governor's house. The horses came out from behind the paddock, by the Queen's Park hotel. I fell in love with the horses and I spent 40 years of my life at the Savannah. I know every blade of grass in the Savannah."

Hadeed recognized that he wanted to work with horses and began as an Assistant Trainer to Tom O'Brien, famed trainer John O'Brien's father. When Tom retired from training, Hadeed took over the stable at the Savannah, gaining his Public Trainer's License from the Trinidad Turf Club in 1970.

He worked closely with jockey Emile Ramsammy. The pair would go on to win 253 races together. Before his Triple Crown season, Hadeed had already won two Derbies: in 1977 with El Camino, and with the legendary Beheaded in 1980. He would win three more with Glorious Music (1992), the cricketer's homage named Lash Dem Lara (1994), and Adoring Groom (1996).

In Sky Rocket and Adoring Groom, Hadeed had two of the seven winners of the Horse of the Year award; the others were Jarrovian in 1987, Hilario (1988), Tune In Time (1990), Black Jack (1991) and Vandross in 1995. Hadeed racked up a remarkable number of prestigious wins in the decade from the mid-1980s to the mid-1990s. Racing abroad, Adoring Groom also brought home the 1996 Red Stripe Superstakes in 1996, while he managed to do what his good friend and fellow trainer, Eric Durant, could not, when his charge Frisky Wharf won the Cockspur Gold Cup in Barbados in 1985.

Hadeed's 1,083 wins include those six Derby wins, two Easter Guineas wins and an amazing nine Midsummer Classics. During his peak period, he took five Trainer's Championship titles (1980, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1992). His winners have earned approximately $20 million in prizemoney.

In February 1999 he announced his retirement from training, but he could not leave the Sport of Kings. In February 2001 he began his stint as Chairman of the Trinidad and Tobago Racing Authority and served until November 2010, the longest spell for the position. He remains an avid racing fan and a sought-after expert on all matters related to the sport. As stated, Joe Hadeed and horse racing are inseparable, which is why he was duly inducted into the Trinidad and Tobago Sports Hall of Fame in 2004.