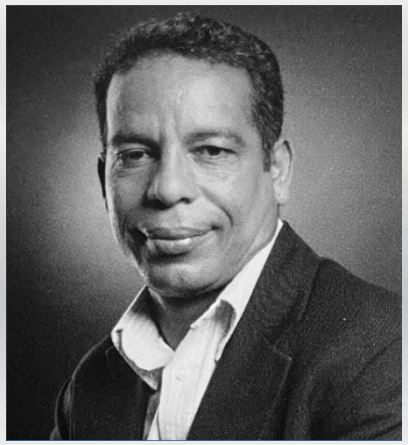
First Citizens Sports Foundation

HALL OF FAME



Brian Harding

Horse Racing

Inducted in 2015

A thousand of anything is a lot, so to have ridden to a thousand wins is simply a remarkable achievement. For Brian Harding, that figure is evidence of his talent, his ability to read a race – having done the preparation – and execute it all to cross the line first in the 'Sport of Kings'.

Harding earned his jockey license in 1982, a time when horse racing was not yet centralized to Arima, instead moving around between the Queen's Park Savannah, Union Park, Santa Rosa Park and, occasionally, Tobago. He recalls, "Port of Spain always had the Christmas meeting and the summer meeting. I know Marabella had the Calypso meeting and the Easter meeting. Arima had the Whitsun meeting. We had racing in Tobago also, I think in November."

In his first year he was edged out of the Apprentice Jockey award by Emile Ramsammy.

But Harding had already proven himself as a name for the future, riding to win on Bright Spark and working with trainer Vincent Roberts. In the following nine years he became a prolific winner, which was capped when he won the Trinidad and Tobago Derby in 1991 with Flag Woman. That same year he was crowned Champion Jockey of the Year with 50 victories under his belt. Two years later, Harding won the Derby again, this time aboard Renegade. That 1993 race was the last Derby held in the Queen's Park Savannah.

In addition, Harding would go on to win the Easter Guineas five times, the Midsummer Classic six times, and join the all-time greats of local racing by winning the Triple Crown Series in 2008 on board Alsafara.

He also raced in Jamaica for two years, 2005-2006, landing the seasonal title of Champion Jockey of Jamaica and, riding Adoring Groom, he won the Jamaican Super Stakes. With a taste for overseas racing, Harding went to North America and enjoyed international success by leading the Rest of the Confederation team to victory in the prestigious calendar event, the 2007 Caribbean Racing Confederation Jockeys Challenge, held in Panama.

He raced until 2012, closing off his 30-year career appropriately by retiring on one of the biggest race days of the year, Boxing Day. By then, he had amassed a staggering 1,004 local wins, the first jockey to pass the thousand victories landmark. His outlook made winning appear simple. "Once you know the distance you're going, and you know the track, you'll get it easy. You must know where the half-

mile is, where the two-furlong (mark) is, you will get it; it comes natural."

Like so many of the people involved in horse racing, he remained in the sport, becoming a trainer after his racing days. In 2005 Brian Harding was inducted into the Jetsam Awards Hall of Fame for Outstanding Achievement, and in 2015 he was inducted into the Trinidad and Tobago Sports Hall of Fame.

Local Wins: 1,004

Gold Cup: 4 wins

Easter Guineas: 5 wins

Midsummer Classic: 6 wins

Trinidad and Tobago Derby: 2 wins

Triple Crown Series: 2008

Champion Jockey: 1991, 1994-98, 2003-04, 2007,2010