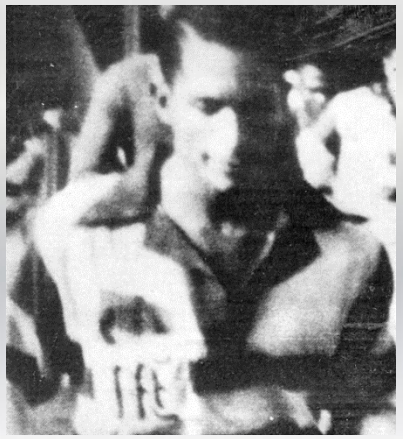
First Citizens Sports Foundation

HALL OF FAME



Carlton E. "Squeakie" Hinds

Football

Inducted in 1985

No conversation about Trinidad and Tobago's best strikers can take place without mention of this player, known for his positional ability within the penalty box, as well as his spatial awareness as to all that was happening around him. Defenders were bamboozled, goalkeepers were thwarted, and teammates benefited from that killer pass that led to a goal.

Carlton Hinds was not a big footballer. At 5 feet 7 inches and 138 pounds, he hardly fit the build of the archetypical striker who could mix it up with the burly opposition. He also played during a time of less stringent rules, with defenders able to tackle in ways that would garner immediate suspension today.

Instead of taking them on directly, this intelligent footballer would utilize the space around him to move the ball away, go past the defender or defenders – such was the panic when 'Squeakie' received the ball – and score.

The man that would later be crowned 'The Prince of Forwards' did not showcase his future talent until a relatively late age. Born in Tableland, south Trinidad, he came to Port of Spain as a youth to attend Nelson Street Boy's RC School, before going to Queen's Royal College (QRC) which is where he was given his nickname. The high standard of football at QRC, number one in sports and academia at the time, meant that a not yet fully mature Hinds did not make the First XI until his final year at the school, 1941. He had done enough in that final school year to join Malvern, and it was there that his change in position from the left wing to center forward saw Hinds begin to fulfil his potential. At the time, Malvern was competing in the Northern League, but with players such as Hinds it progressed to the Second Division.

1945 saw Hinds called up for the national team trials prior to a tour to British Guiana. He made the case for his selection with seven goals in the trials, but a strained back muscle on tour relegated him to the sidelines. Returning to domestic football, Malvern won the BVD Cup in 1946 (and would retain it the following year), before going on an unbeaten run into the 1947 season. With the inter-colonial tournament being hosted by Trinidad and Tobago that same year and no injury issues this time, Hinds shone in a 6-0 drubbing of Jamaica, scoring one and setting up two goals.

In 1948, Trinidad and Tobago welcomed Haiti to its shores and, under new captain Joseph Gonsalves, began a proud period of Trinbagonian football with a team completely in synch and affectionately called 'the Family XI'. Hinds, an important part of the team, scored in the 4-0 win over the visitors. Tours to Suriname, Guadeloupe, Jamaica, Curaçao and Aruba followed. The 'Family XI' won on their travels, won at home and

won another inter-colonial tournament. It proved to be the catalyst for them to undertake a bigger challenge: a tour of the United Kingdom.

This they duly did in 1953, boarding the SS Golfito in June of that year. It was the national team's first exposure to international competition outside of the Caribbean region, a crucial first step on the journey that would eventually lead to such highs as 2006 World Cup qualification. The team secured 5 wins and 3 draws in their 14 games in unchartered territory, with Hinds scoring on four occasions.

While many of the players retired from national duty following that tour, Hinds stayed on, taking part in another landmark game in 1955 when an English FA team visited Trinidad. Also in 1955, he joined Sporting Club and they won the League Shield the following season.

Hinds then emigrated to the USA, attending Howard University to study Civil Engineering. He continued to play some football, played field hockey – as he had done for Malvern – and once returned to Trinidad as part of the US hockey squad. He would later represent US hockey at the 1971 Pan Am Games, at the age of 47.

In 1985 Carlton Hinds was inducted into the Trinidad and Tobago Sports Hall of Fame.