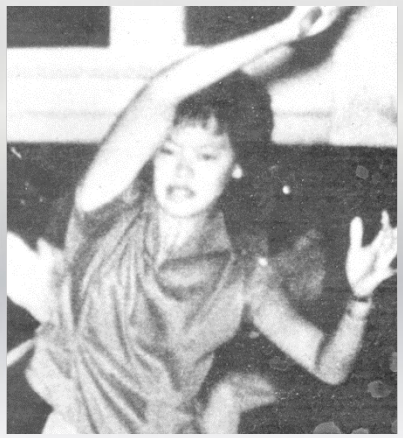
First Citizens Sports Foundation

HALL OF FAME



Petal Lee Loy

Table Tennis

Inducted in 1985

It was the lure of her brothers playing on the table tennis board that got Petal Lee Loy involved in the sport. It did not matter that in the 1940s there was not yet a separate women's division for a budding female player to aim for, Lee Loy simply got on with the business of competing against the boys.

As a teenager she took part in tournaments in the open C Class until the women's class was formed in the mid-1950s, and came up against the formidable Majorie John, who was a national champion from 1949 to 1955. Lee Loy did not defeat John in their early encounters, but certainly learnt from them. John chose not to compete in 1956, clearing the way for Lee Loy to win her first national title, a feat that she repeated in 1957.

In 1958 John was back in the national championships, seeking to regain her crown and setting up the prospect of a clash of the champions of the past nine years. In the event, it was Lee Loy that emerged triumphant, in the process earning herself a hat-trick of national

titles. Later that year, Trinidad hosted the West Indian Championships and John took revenge against Lee Loy, who finished second.

The following year, Lee Loy was selected for her first tour abroad at the 1959 West Indies Championships in Jamaica. As before, she used the experience gained from a previous defeat to spur her on to new heights and, in this instance, Lee Loy soared. In the Ladies Singles she met John once again in the final and defeated her. The two of them then teamed up to form a formidable force that romped to victory in the Ladies Doubles competition. Lee Loy then partnered with Winston 'Reds' Mulligan to win the Mixed Doubles and achieve that rare success that all tennis players seek: the championship triple crown.

1960 brought Lee Loy another national Singles title and her defence at the regional championships which were being held in Barbados. First up in the Singles, where she met the promising teenage Joy Foster in the final and won. Lee Loy and John teamed up for the Ladies Doubles and became champions once more. That left the Mixed Doubles, where Lee Loy and Mulligan complemented each perfectly once again, to allow Lee Loy to repeat her triple crown.

The 1961 West Indian Championships returned to Trinidad with Lee Loy expected to achieve the 'treble triple crown'. Her win in the Singles (making it a hat trick of Singles titles) set her on her way, as did her repeat in the Mixed Doubles, but John did not play in the tournament and a weakened Trinidad and Tobago did not win the Ladies Doubles.

Her victories at the regional level convinced Trinidad and Tobago to send Lee Loy to the 1962 US Table Tennis Open, her biggest challenge yet,

where she made it to the quarterfinals in the ultra-competitive tournament. Lee Loy returned to Trinidad and took a brief hiatus from the sport, choosing not to compete in 1963. She returned in 1964, winning another national Singles title, before announcing her retirement.

In 1968, the Trinidad and Tobago Table Tennis Association, aware of her achievements and seeking to meaningfully recognize the 25th year of Lee Loy's activity in the sport, held a tournament in her honour. She came out of retirement, won the Ladies Singles title at the tournament, and this time her retirement was final.

An attacking player who was quick to pounce on a weak serve, she was known for her accuracy and the forcefulness of her returns. Though she left the sport at a relatively young age, her impact and results mark her as one of the best that Trinidad and Tobago has ever produced in table tennis and, as such, in 1985 Petal Loy was inducted into the Trinidad and Tobago Sports Hall of Fame.

National Singles title:	**1956-58,1960-61, 1964**
West Indies Singles title:	**1959-61**
West Indies Doubles title:	**1959-60**
West Indies Mixed Doubles title:	**1959-61**