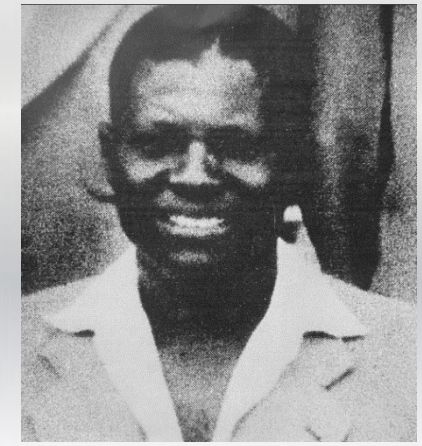
First Citizens Sports Foundation

HALL OF FAME



Ralph Archibald Legall

All Rounder

Inducted in 1985

Ball sports were the domain of Ralph Legall, his hand to eye coordination lending itself to cricket and tennis, where he attained the highest playing place possible: Test matches and the Davis Cup. Add his representation of Trinidad and Tobago in football, basketball and table tennis, and you have the consummate ball sports all-rounder; a man who can lay claim to having been on four national teams for four separate sporting disciplines.

Legall was born in Barbados, before his family emigrated to Trinidad in the early 1930s. On the playing fields that littered Port of Spain, the young Legall was impressing with his football skills as a midfielder and began playing for the British Army team. He was soon picked up by the strong Police team, before a move to south Trinidad to join the up-and-coming Apex team of the early 1950s. In between his first-class football career, Legall was also displaying his skill with the racquet, both big and small.



He rose through the ranks to secure the national Men's Table Tennis title in 1949, but it was on the larger lawn tennis court that he shone even brighter – as his football career was tapering off – when he was part of the first West Indies Davis Cup team making its debut in 1953. Taking place at Kingston, Jamaica in August, the team lost 5-0 to the USA but set a trajectory for other regional Davis Cup teams to follow (the regional representation format continued until 1987, when individual Caribbean nations entered the competition).

It was cricket in which Legall attained his highest peaks and greatest longevity. He came through the strong Shannon Cricket Club, alma mater of the likes of Lebrun and Learie Constantine, Victor Pascal and a host of others and, like his illustrious alumni, he was soon on the radar of the national selectors. Balancing his cricket with football and tennis, his ability as a wicketkeeper who could bat high up the order meant that he fit the bill for the West Indies selectors. At the time, the team was seeking a gloveman who could add runs, instead of a specialist wicketkeeper. The incumbent, Jamaican Alfred Binns, had a below-par match in the First Test of the Windies versus India series in 1953, and Legall, who scored a handy 46 and took a couple of catches in the Trinidad and Tobago versus India warm-up game, was brought into the team for the Second Test, making his debut at Bridgetown and remaining behind the stumps for the remainder of the five-match series.

It was a stellar Windies lineup, featuring the 3 Ws – Weekes, Worrell and Walcott, Jeffrey Stollmeyer, Sonny Ramadhin and Alf Valentine. The Windies won the series and Legall's place in the annals of regional cricket was assured.

He continued to play for Trinidad and Tobago with steady performances in the regional 1953 and 1954 seasons, such as scores of 46 and 68 against Jamaica, while maintaining his place as a 'keeper. In 1960 he went to England to play for Church and Oswaldtwistle Cricket Club in the ultra-competitive Lancashire League, before emigrating to Canada to live.

Few people had the ability to reach the highest levels in two sports. Ralph Legall attained it in four. For his all-round abilities he was inducted into the Trinidad and Tobago Sports Hall of Fame in 1985.

Matches: Test 4; First Class 16

Batting: Test 50 runs, Average 10.00; First Class 485 runs, Average 22.04, Fifties 2