First Citizens Sports Foundation

HALL OF FAME



Arthur Maynard

Football

Inducted in 1984

Cricket or football? Arthur Maynard's career in either would be the envy of the Trinidad and Tobago sporting world. As a batsman he was prolific, as a defender he was indefatigable. He remains spoken of in equal measure in both sports. A change in circumstances meant that, eventually, he had to choose one.

Born on 28th February 1909 in Belmont, Port of Spain, he played both sports in his teens and was soon in the Everton FC first team. The team, dubbed 'the people's club', was revered by the lower, working-class population of Trinidad and Tobago. The fans looked to the Everton players to overcome the dominance of teams derived from the upper-class population. In that regard, Everton did not disappoint. Maynard was a major part of the remarkable success that included the local quadruple of trophies for three seasons in a row – 1930-1932: Port of Spain Football League, FA Cup, Sperling Cup, and the Wincairns Trophy.

Together with his captain, Alfred Charles, he formed a formidable defensive pairing.

In the same span, Maynard was racking up the runs as an opening batsman for another team which was representative of the class divide in society, Shannon Cricket Club. Domestic performances led to selection for the national team and, with his football team suspended, Maynard dedicated more time to the 1934/35 season. Selected to play for the Trinidad versus Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC), it was a first-class match played between the first and second Tests.

Replicating his Shannon role as opener, Maynard scored 200 not out, a rare feat for a player making his first-class debut. With 2 not out in the 2nd innings, and 4 in the last time he batted in the second match, Maynard never again played first-class cricket, leaving him with an average of 206.

As a teacher, it was proving difficult to get time away from his job, and cricket at the highest level demanded a lot of time. The cricket fans were disappointed, with some suggesting that Maynard's 200 should have allowed him to be selected to the 2nd Test.

He continued to play for Shannon, with success, while the football season in 1934 saw him join the Prisons Team with a few of his ex-Everton teammates. Though they were not nearly as successful as their former team, Maynard was still playing well enough to be considered the best full back in the country, and to continue representing Trinidad and Tobago in football. The 1935 tour of Jamaica was the first ever by a Trinidad and Tobago team that would set up the friendly rivalry still evident today.

Trinidad and Tobago won both matches and Maynard returned to play for Prisons for two more seasons before focusing full time on teaching.

He was inducted to the Sports Hall of Fame in 1984.