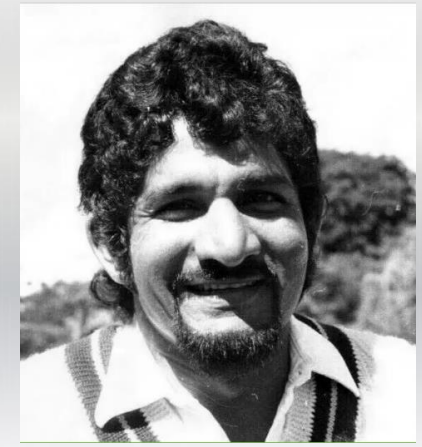
First Citizens Sports Foundation

HALL OF FAME



Deryck Murray

Cricket

Inducted in 1989

Before he was 21 years old, this wicketkeeper extraordinaire had played Test cricket, played County cricket, represented Trinidad and Tobago, captained one of the world's top universities, and was a world record holder. The truly amazing part about this is that he was only just getting started.

Deryck Murray's name is forever etched in the annals of West Indian sport. He was the mark of composure behind the stumps, the antithesis of the explosivity that was being released from the other end, as he and his Windies teammates set about upon world domination.

Murray was from a family of sports excellence, both on and off the field, with his father (and fellow Hall of Famer), Lance, a guiding factor. Deryck attended Queen's Royal College (QRC) where he gravitated towards cricket and football as well as lawn tennis. His keen eye made him stand out as a batsman but also, crucially, as a wicketkeeper.

It was also in line with his thinking that the position behind the stumps meant that he was always involved in the game.

Everything was centred around the half mile area from QRC to the Queen's Park Savannah, as well as the Queen's Park Cricket Club (QPCC) for whom he was also racking up catches and making runs.
Despite being a teenager, his glovework was noticed by the national selectors and, when Trinidad and Tobago played touring English team EW Swanton XI in 1960, the 16-year-old was asked to play, necessitating him missing school for his first-class debut. He made scores of 32 and 4 and took two catches.

Murray continued to play for the national team in the regional four-day tournament where his exploits were noted by Windies captain Frank Worrell. When the West Indies team was selected to tour England in 1963, Worrell got his wish to have Murray as the wicketkeeper.
Whatever concerns there were about his age and lack of experience (he had played only two first-class matches) were blown away when Murray was selected for the first Test at Old Trafford. He took 5 dismissals on debut as the Windies won by 10 wickets. With 6 dismissals in the second Test at Lord's, he cemented his place in a side where he was an excellent partner for the fast bowling of Charlie Griffith, Garfield Sobers and Wes Hall, as well as the spin of Lance Gibbs. By the end of the five-match series, Murray had effected 24 dismissals – a world record at the time – and it remained one until 1995. For his extraordinary efforts, Murray was named Sportsman of the Year 1963.

His batting was hardly needed on his first tour, but he provided a timely reminder of his ability when he returned to the Caribbean and scored his

maiden first-class hundred for a Sir Frank Worrell XI versus a Conrad Hunte XI. Despite this, the Windies opted for the more experienced Jackie Hendricks in 1964, but Murray used to time to further both his cricket and education by attending Cambridge University. Again, he wasted little time, scoring 108 out of a team total of 168 against county cricket team Worcestershire. Performances like that earned him a contract with Nottinghamshire in 1966, where he scored a career-best 166 against Surrey.

He captained Cambridge in his final year and then played full-time for Notts after his graduation. Amazingly, in his first season he played as a batsman only, but it yielded results; he scored over 1,000 runs for the 1967 season, which included 139 against India in a tour match.

When England toured the Caribbean in 1968, Murray was recalled for duty behind the stumps as Hendricks was injured. 14 dismissals and an average of 13 with the bat was his contribution as the series was lost 1-0. He returned to Notts and this time he was their first choice 'keeper. He crossed 1,000 runs once again, batting at number 5 or 6 in the order. After playing one more season for the county, 1969, Murray was selected for the Rest of the World XI to take on England in the summer of 1970. In the third match at Birmingham he scored 62 and had 6 dismissals. But it was in the next match that he made his mark; asked to open the innings, he scored 95 runs, with 4 catches, to help set up the victory.

With the Windies still favouring Hendricks for various series, Murray moved from Notts to Warwickshire in 1972. His solid glovework continued and he was finally recalled to the West Indies for the second Test against Australia at Bridgetown in 1973. He celebrated by scoring

90, batting at number 7 with a match saving innings. The Windies lost the series but Murray's 'keeping and contributions with the bat meant that, this time, he would hold his place in the squad. On that summer's tour to England, Windies experimented with using Murray as an opener, but he had modest scores. However his glovework was again key to the bowlers' efforts and they won the series 2-0.

It was the same opponents in early 1974 in the Caribbean, and Murray enjoyed himself. First he scored 148 when Trinidad and Tobago played England as a warm up match. Then he took 15 dismissals and averaged 37.66 with the bat that included 53 not out in the third Test. On the 1974/75 tour to India, he was excellent behind the stumps with the turning ball, taking 15 dismissals. He also came agonisingly close once again to a Test ton, scoring 91 in the fifth and final Test.

1975 meant the World Cup – the very first one, to be held in the home of cricket, England. Further evidence of Murray's long-term place in the team was provided when he was made vice-captain. West Indies were one of the favourites to win but then came unstuck against a spirited Pakistan that had them on the ropes in a must-win match. Chasing 266, the Windies were 145 for 6. Then Murray came in at number 8, took his guard, marshalled the tailenders (especially Andy Roberts who stayed longest with him). Even when it looked grim at 166 for 8, Murray was resolute, scoring 61 not out and setting off wild celebrations from the crowd for creating an unlikely win and getting his team to the semi-finals. They would go on to win the tournament, beating Australia in the final. The vice-captain was now a World Cup winner. He was also named Sportsman of the Year 1975.

Australia took their revenge later that year when the Windies toured, with brutal fast bowling that decimated the Caribbean team's batting. But Murray was one of the few standouts, taking on the short-pitched deliveries with fearless cut shots and pulls. 66 and 55 at Brisbane, 63 at Perth, 32 and 50 at Sydney, showed his intent and courage.
That 5-1 defeat forced West Indies to switch to a four-prong fast bowling attack, and in Murray they had the perfect player to ensure mass effectiveness of the new approach. They began with India in the Caribbean, where he flew about taking 10 catches and scoring 71 at Kingston in a 2-1 series win. Next up was the infamous 1976 'grovel' tour to England with the diminutive Murray snaring 19 dismissals off some very fast and deadly bowling.

Murray was part of a well-oiled machine that won every series from 1976 until Kerry Packer came along with the concept of World Series Cricket (WSC). Promising better wages and conditions, the best players from around the world signed up for the controversial series that rocked the game to the core and left the Windies First XI banished for two years (1977-1979). The upshot was that Murray took part in some of the hardest fought battles ever seen on a cricket pitch. He was right at home in the cauldron of WSC, taking catches off hostile bowling and finishing 10th in the batting averages with 29.00

When the WSC matter was resolved and teams reinstated, it was time for Windies to defend their World Cup title in 1979. Such was the strength of the team that Murray was only required to bat twice for the tournament, as they steamrolled the opposition on their way to a second title. On the tour to Australia in the 1979 winter, Murray took 10 dismissals in a 3 Test series, then made 64 in the first Test of the 1980

tour of England. He also took 13 catches as the team continued their unbeaten run. Though he was 37 years old, he was still excellent behind the stumps, but the team decided to build towards the future and that 1980 England tour was his last.

Murray returned home to play one last season for Trinidad and Tobago, scoring 75 against England in a warm-up match, and 82 against Jamaica in the Shell Shield. If his life as a cricketer was busy, his life afterwards was even more hectic. He served as a diplomat for Trinidad and Tobago, as the representative to the United Nations, worked in financial services in England, became an ICC Match Referee in 1992, the President of the Trinidad and Tobago Cricket Board, the President of QPCC and then Ambassador to Jamaica.

In 1987, Deryck Murray, who was awarded the Chaconia Gold Medal in 1975 and who formed part of the greatest team to ever play the game of cricket, was inducted into the Trinidad and Tobago Sports Hall of Fame.

Matches: Test 62; ODI 26; First Class 367
Batting: Test 1,993 runs, Average 22.90, Fifties 11; ODI 294 runs, Average 24.50, Fifties 2; First Class 13,292 runs, Average 28.34, Hundreds 10, Fifties 72
Bowling: First Class Wickets 5, Average 73.40
Fielding: Test Catches 181; ODI Catches 37; First Class Catches 740; Test Stumpings 8; ODI Stumpings 1; First Class Stumpings 108
ODI World Cup winner: 1975, 1979