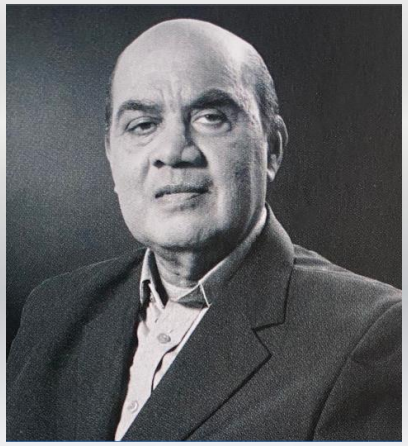
First Citizens Sports Foundation

HALL OF FAME



Rangy Nanan C.M.T.

Cricket

Inducted in 2015

Wily. That seems to be the one word that encapsulates Rangy Nanan as a cricketer. The term applies to both his skill as a spin bowler and his acumen as a captain.

The most successful bowler in regional cricket, his off-breaks would bamboozle generations of batsmen during his almost 20 years playing for Trinidad and Tobago.

Preysal born and Presentation College educated, Nanan began to take the game seriously while at the secondary school and it yielded results. He was selected for the Trinidad and Tobago Youth teams of 1969 and 1970. In the latter year he also toured England with the West Indies Youth team. His upward trajectory continued when he won the Learie Constantine Trophy for the most outstanding all-rounder in the 1972 West Indies Youth Championship, proving that he was also quite able with the bat.

The following year he made his debut for Central Trinidad, playing against East Trinidad in the Texaco Cup. Taking a solitary wicket in the first innings, he soon settled and took 5 for 43 in the second innings while just missing a half-century with 49 runs. Within a few months he was fast-tracked into the Trinidad and Tobago senior team to play in the prestigious Shell Shield, going wicketless against Guyana. With more experienced bowlers such as Imtiaz and Inshan Ali, and Raphick Jumadeen, Nanan took a few years to cement a place in the national squad, but when he returned in the 1978 Shell Shield, he did so with a vengeance. 6 for 54 versus Jamaica and 4 for 26 against Guyana announced his return, as did his 3 for 61 versus Australia in pre-Test match.

In 1979 he continued with a decent haul in each match, and in 1980 he single-handedly defeated Jamaica, taking 5 for 71 followed by 6 for 66. Backed up with figures like 9 for 92 against the Combined Islands, leading to a total of 136 wickets from six seasons at an average of 19.06 per wicket, the West Indies selectors could not ignore him, even in the midst of their famed four-pronged pace attack.

Nanan was selected for the tour of Pakistan, where he took 9 for 86 in a warm-up game against the Governor's XI and was given his maroon cap for the 2nd Test. He took two wickets in each innings (2 for 54 and 2 for 37), also contributing to a vital 44-run batting partnership for the Windies' only win of the tour (the other two Tests were drawn). Nanan did not play in the 3rd Test but topped the bowling averages for the tour with incredible figures of 18 wickets taken at an average of 16.17. It would be his first and last Test match.

Returns such as 5 for 55 versus Barbados in 1981 set him up nicely for the 1982 Shell Shield when he took 32 wickets across five matches: 7 against Barbados, 7 against Guyana, 9 against Windward Islands, 9 against the Leeward Islands. Nanan was at the top of his game. In 1983 he put on a magnificent all-round display against the Leewards, bowling 88 overs across both innings, taking 6 wickets and scoring his sole first-class century, 125 batting at number 7 in the order.

For the 1984 Shell Shield, Nanan was made captain and lost some of his consistency, but he still showed his class with 9 wickets versus Guyana and was left agonisingly not out on 98 versus the Leewards. After that first year at the helm, Nanan knew that he wanted to win the tournament, one that Trinidad and Tobago had not won for nine years. From the first match in 1985, Nanan was bold with his tactics and contributed with both bat and ball. His 15 wickets at an average of 20.13 helped the team to victories against Jamaica, Windward Islands, and the one that sealed the title, Barbados. Nanan had delivered the Shell Shield and was rightly feted for his acumen.

Nanan continued to lead the team until 1991 when he handed over the reins to Augustine Logie. During Nanan's tenure he captained the likes of Logie, Ian Bishop, Tony Gray, Phil Simmons and Brian Lara. The latter, a double world record holder, once said, "My greatest memories will have to be the countless battles we had in the nets against each other. It always felt like I was in school when facing his prodigiously turning off-breaks. I learnt a lot of the art of playing spin from Rangy."

His international playing days over, Nanan became a policeman but remained close to regional cricket, first as the Trinidad and Tobago

liaison for the West Indies, and then working with the local organization committee when the region hosted the ODI World Cup in 2007. He was regarded as a spin luminary, with his tight control (his first-class cricket economy rate is an exceptional 2.18), his use of angles and his ability to tie down one end of the wicket. His nine half centuries in the first-class game offer evidence that he was more than useful with the bat. Nanan had the misfortune to play when West Indies were dominating the world game with four fast bowlers and spin was not on their agenda.

A keen student of the game, later becoming a teacher to younger players, he remains beloved by local cricket fans. In 1991 he was awarded the Chaconia Silver Medal for services to sport. In 2021 the Preysal Recreation Ground was named after him. Rangy Nanan, one of the greatest exponents of the art of spin bowling, the man that brought home the Shell Shield at the height of Windies global dominance, was inducted into the Trinidad and Tobago Sports Hall of Fame in 2015.

Matches: Test 1; First Class 94

Batting: Test 16 runs, Average 8.00; First Class 2,607 runs,, Average 20.85 Hundreds 1, Fifties 9

Bowling: Test Wickets 4; First Class Wickets 366, Average 23.10

Fielding: Test catches 2; First Class Catches 61

Shell Shield: 1985