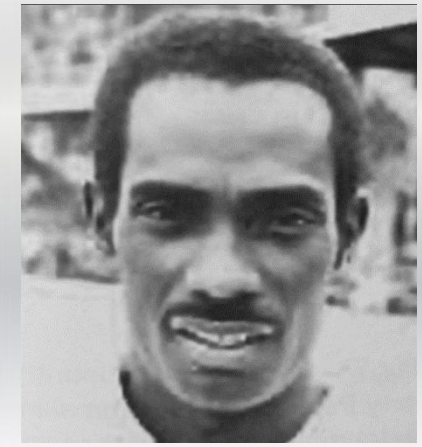
First Citizens Sports Foundation

HALL OF FAME



Jack Noreiga

(Posthumous)

Cricket

Inducted in 2011

Nine wickets in a Test innings. Remarkable to think about, almost impossible to produce. No one told Jack Noriega that in 1971, and it remains the one instance where a West Indian player has achieved the incredible feat.

The St. Joseph off-spinner who could more than hold his own with a bat played his early cricket for Shannon Cricket Club, known for its illustrious alumni such as Sir Learie Constantine and Ralph Legall. His cricket ambition began with thoughts of becoming a solid middle-order batsman but, during one innings for Shannon, he was continually bamboozled by the off-breaks being bowled to him and realized that this was what he wanted to do within the sport. His style was to give the ball plenty of flight but also impart plenty of turn, creating uncertainty for the batsman as to whether to come forward or wait for the trajectory to be determined. Often, by the time the decision was made, it would be too late.

He made his Trinidad and Tobago debut against a touring India side in 1962, but it was a disappointing performance and led to a long absence from the national team. However, by 1971, good club performances saw him recalled to a Trinidad and Tobago team which was defending the coveted Shell Shield title that they had won the previous year, skippered by Joey Carew.

Returning against the Combined Islands, he took six wickets in the match, followed by 11 wickets versus Barbados, on his way to taking 19 scalps for the tournament and putting himself onto the Windies selector's radar for the series against India.

Noriega was called up for the 2nd Test at Queen's Park Oval (QPO), where the first Indian wicket fell to Grayson Shillingford before Noriega amazingly mopped up the rest of the Indian wickets: 9 for 95 from 49.4 overs bowled.

Amazingly, despite such a heroic individual effort, West Indies lost the match. He played in the next Test at Georgetown but not in the 4th Test in Barbados where the pitch was not conducive to spin. The 5th and final Test was held at QPO, with Noriega again showing his preference for the Port of Spain pitch, bagging 5 for 129 in the second innings. It was to be his last Test, but at 35 years of age he made the most scintillating debut, his record for the most wickets in an innings still standing over 50 years later.

He continued to play for Trinidad and Tobago until the 1975 season before going into coaching. In 2011, Jack Noriega was inducted into the Trinidad and Tobago Sports Hall of Fame

Matches: Test 4; First Class 21

Bowling: Test Wickets 17, Average 29.00; First Class Wickets 68, Average 29.67

Batting: Test 11 runs, Average 3.66, Fifties 1; First Class 181 runs, Average 9.05

Fielding: Test catches 2; First Class Catches 4