First Citizens Sports Foundation

HALL OF FAME



Harold Nothnagel

Lawn Tennis

Inducted in 1985

An absolute legend of local tennis, from an era where the competitiveness is evidenced by the results, Harold Nothnagel is known first and foremost as a Doubles player extraordinaire, partnering with fellow Hall of Famer Cuthbert Thavenot to win an unimaginable number of national titles across an incomprehensible three decades of competition.

However, Nothnagel – a tall player with deft touches that made him perfectly suitable for the position of frontman in Doubles – would eventually emerge from the two-player format to secure other memorable victories.

Known as 'Fuchi', he had formed a partnership with Thavenot early in his career, with the teenage pair making an almost immediate impact by claiming the 1930 Doubles national title, a feat that they would repeat in 1931.

The pairing of Dr. Ritchie and A. P. Blair prevented their hat-trick of wins in 1932, but Nothnagel did not leave the Championships empty handed, as he teamed up with Marie Lenagan to take his first Mixed Doubles title.

In 1933, Nothnagel and Thavenot reclaimed their Doubles title, a crown that they would not relinquish for the next three years, creating their first great sequence of wins. Proving his versatility, Nothnagel entered the 1937 Doubles championship with a new partner, H. L. F. Tindall, and won. He did the same in 1938, before returning to partnering with Thavenot for another hat-trick of wins from 1939 to 1941. For Nothnagel, this represented an unprecedented nine national Doubles titles in a row. Further, in 1941, he also won the coveted Singles title, after years of trying.

The national championships were not held in 1942 and 1943 due to the Second World War, but when they resumed Nothnagel returned to familiar ground: 1944 Doubles champion with Thavenot, and 1945 Mixed Doubles champion with a new partner, Dolly Fisher.

Nothnagel was still chasing the triple crown, something that Thavenot achieved in 1939. He came close in 1946 when he won his second Singles title and another Doubles title, but lost in the Mixed Doubles. The following year, 1947, he won the Mixed Doubles with Margaret Woodcock, and the Doubles title, but relinquished his Singles crown.

1948 would be the year that he realized the triple dream, with a third and final Singles title complemented by the customary Doubles win with

Thavenot, and a Mixed Doubles win with yet another partner, W. Thomas.

Though they were now competing against players that were not yet born when they won their first national title, the Nothnagel/Thavenot tandem was still winning. They secured the Doubles in 1953 and 1954, their swansong, with Nothnagel going on to win the Mixed Doubles title in 1955 and 1956 with Anita DeVerteuil.

The Brandon Trophy – a regional tournament based on national team participation – was introduced in 1950 and, though he could be considered a veteran at that stage, Nothnagel still qualified to represent Trinidad and Tobago in the early 1950s. Better was to come in 1954 when he was selected to represent his country against the USA at Tranquillity Courts in the Davis Cup. He played in the Doubles with Ralph Legall, the pair losing 0-6, 1-6, 3-6, but for Nothnagel, like the triple crown, it was another dream come true to have competed internationally.

With a bulging trophy cabinet, Harold Nothnagel retired from competitive tennis with a remarkable record of longevity. In 1985 he was inducted into the Trinidad and Tobago Sports Hall of Fame.

National Singles title: **1941, 1946, 1948**

National Doubles title: **1930-31, 1933-41, 1944, 1946-48, 1953-54**

National Mixed Doubles title: 1932, 1945, 1947-48, 1955-56