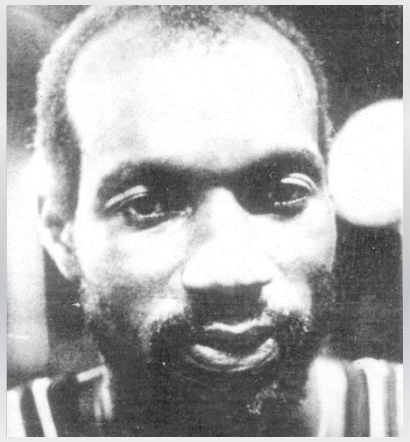
First Citizens Sports Foundation

HALL OF FAME



Victor O'Garro

Basketball

Inducted in 1989

From the borough of Point Fortin, Victor O'Garro is revered in terms of Caribbean Basketball. As a player, he took part in historic tournaments that helped the sport to gain traction in the region. As a coach, he fulfilled his passion of working with youths and imparting his love of the game, not to mention his skill.

O'Garro was one of the few to attain the title of 'professional', having come through the local leagues before attaining a place in the Trinidad and Tobago squad in 1971. On tours to Mexico, China, Venezuela, Colombia, and the Caribbean, he put himself into the shop window and wound up playing professionally in the Dominican Republic in 1974 and 1975.

The sport was gaining sufficient popularity to create the first CARICOM Basketball Championships, held in Guyana in 1981. O'Garro, with his experience and skill, was part of the team, contributing immensely.

In Trinidad and Tobago's opening game he scored 27 points as they beat Suriname 111-99, 15 points as they lost to Jamaica 92-84. They finished second in their group and faced Barbados in the semi-final, taking a commanding win 104-80, O'Garro scoring 20 points. Trinidad and Tobago disappointed in the final against old rivals Jamaica, losing 93-79. As is customary, the CARICOM All-Star team was selected at the conclusion of the tournament, with O'Garro the sole Trinbagonian to make the squad.

'Voot' made the transition from player to coach, becoming the Trinidad and Tobago senior women's coach from 1985-1994, while he also served on the World Rule Committee for the Special Olympics from 1987-1990. Seeking to further his capacity for coaching, he secured his coaching diploma from Colgate University in Hamilton, New York, and became a level three FIBA (International Basketball Federation) coach and instructor. O'Garro is also a member of the FIBA Youth Development Committee, a role to which he is perfectly suited.

He accepted an offer to become the technical director of Cayman Islands basketball in 1994, succeeding in taking the sport from a recreational one to a highly competitive one, with the men's national team attending the CARICOM Championships for the first time in 2011.

One of the very best basketballers to emerge from Trinidad and Tobago, and a major proponent of the game's expansion in the Caribbean, Victor O'Garro's efforts were recognized by the awarding of the Hummingbird

Silver Medal in 1982, and in 2013 he was inaugurated into the FIBA House of Basketball, one of the game's highest honours. He was also inducted to the Trinidad and Tobago Sports Hall of Fame in 1987.