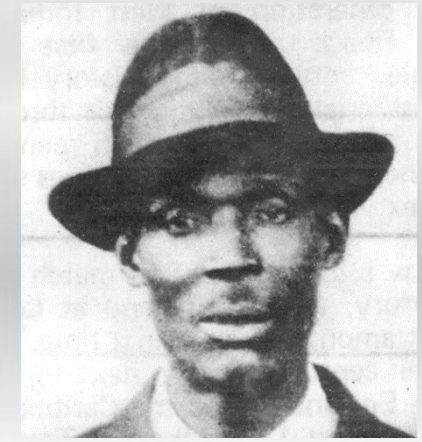
First Citizens Sports Foundation

HALL OF FAME



Victor Pascall

Cricket

Inducted in 1984

Primarily known for his bowling as a left arm orthodox spinner, Victor Pascall was no slouch with the bat either. It was this all round ability that saw him remain a fixture in the Trinidad and Tobago cricket team for over a decade.

Pascall's parents were brought to South America as slaves from Sub-Saharan Africa, but his father and mother escaped bondage and fled to Trinidad, where Victor was born in Diego Martin in 1886. Cricket being immensely popular just before the turn of the century, he took up the sport in his mid-teens and joined the Shannon Cricket Club.

The team contained many national-level players drawn from the lower middle classes, and it was there that he perfected his spinning craft, learning the tricks of the trade and bowling to experienced teammates. He quickly rose through the ranks to become Shannon's third bowler, coming on after the opening pacemen.

Given the race and class divide in Trinidad, Shannon was a team with a point to prove and gained a reputation as a squad so serious that they seldom smiled on the field. In that regard, Pascall, by some accounts, bucked that trend and was affable both on and off the pitch, with everyone of all classes.

He made his first-class debut at the age of 20, taking a solitary wicket in the Inter-Colonial Tournament. Returning to club cricket for Shannon, he – like most spinners – developed greater nous with age and experience. Three years later, with a bagful of domestic wickets to his name, he was selected once again for the Trinidad and Tobago Inter-Colonial team, and this time he solidified his place.

In 24 matches between 1909 and 1927, Pascall would take 102 wickets at an average of 17.39 with returns of five wickets or more per innings on 6 occasions. His scored 513 runs with an average of 15.08 and two fifties to his name. During this regional career he was now considered the best left-arm spinner in the Caribbean, leading to his selection for the fledging West Indies team.

In his first Windies match in 1913 versus a touring Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) he took 4 wickets for 83 runs. The First World War put a hold on sport globally, but when tours resumed Pascall – still taking wickets at the regional level – was the natural selection as the spinner. The 1923 West Indies squad that toured England was heralded as playing a major part in the decision to grant the team Test status five years later. Pascall, playing together with his maternal nephew, Learie Constantine (Learie's mother was Victor's brother), did his part, taking 52 wickets on green, seam-friendly pitches, at an average of 24.30. Against Cambridge

University he bagged 5 for 67, and at Lord's Cricket Ground he took 6 for 77 versus MCC.

Pascall played for the West Indies until 1926, by which time he was 40 years old. Even for a spinner his career was remarkably long, and he was able to maintain his wicket-taking standard throughout, while his skill stood him apart from the general West Indies bowlers of medium and fast-paced bowling – and, for that matter, from right-handed bowlers.

CLR James, the author of the seminal work of cricket *Beyond A Boundary*, was familiar with the Shannon players of the 1920s and 1930s, and described Pascall as 'a most charming person and a great popular favourite with all classes'.

Victor Pascall's contributions to cricket were instrumental in shaping the future of the game both domestically and for the Caribbean region. He was inducted into the Sports Hall of Fame in 1984.

Bowling: 171 Domestic Wickets, Average 20.09; Five Wicket Innings: 6; Ten Wicket Match: 1

Batting: 13.63 First Class average