First Citizens Sports Foundation

HALL OF FAME



Stephanie Power

Cricket

Inducted in 2015

Twelve years in the crucial role of wicketkeeper for the West Indies, together with fifteen years in the Trinidad and Tobago squad, marks Stephanie Power as a stalwart of regional cricket, a pioneer who helped lay the groundwork for modern-day female cricketers. That she continues her involvement in the sport as a sought-after coach is testament to her skill and passion.

Power was always interested in sport, and started playing cricket from primary school age at Hokett Baptist Primary School in east Port of Spain. At the time she played against boys and more than held her own. She was hooked and graduated to playing at St. Francois Girls College in the Secondary Girls Cricket competition. Power then began to play for one of the best women's teams on the domestic scene: Merry Girls. Her performances led to a national call-up as a wicketkeeper/batter, but though she was included on a few West Indies' teams it took some time before she made her debut.

It happened in 1993, at the Women's World Cup no less, when the first-choice 'keeper Rita Scott was injured in the team's match against Australia and the evergreen 36-year-old Power was called upon to fill in. She scored 23 runs and stumped out one of the opposition batters. By the end of the tournament in England she had taken 4 catches and 4 stumpings from 5 matches.

Four years later when the World Cup came around again – held in India in 1997 – Power had made the position behind the stumps all her own. Overall the Windies had a poor tournament and slumped to 9th place in the final standings.

She was made captain of Trinidad and Tobago – a position that she held until her international retirement – and immediately repaid the selector's faith by delivering the 2002 West Indies Women's Championship.

In the period between the 1990s to the early 2000s, there were few international series scheduled for women's cricket between World Cups. Power was selected for the team that played a touring Sri Lanka team in 2002, but did not play after succumbing to an injury in in the first match. By the end of the 2003 she was given the honour of becoming captain of the regional team, and with a tour to Pakistan that included one Test match, her leadership skills would be tested to the limit.

In the cauldron of Karachi, Power viewed the carnage as Pakistan put on 426 for 7 declared, then scored 19 runs as her team was bowled out for 147. Power rallied the troops, who looked like a different team even though they were following on. Jamaican Nadine George scored a

century, while three fifties, including a captain's innings of 55 off 101 balls from Power, took the Windies up to 440 and saved the match.

At the beginning of 2005 Power, fresh from leading Trinidad and Tobago to a second West Indies Championship, captained West Indies on a tour to South Africa for a three ODI match series. Unlike the Test match versus Pakistan, she took the dual role of captain and wicketkeeper, her three catches in the 1st ODI helping the team to set the tone by beginning with a win. They won by 7 wickets in the 2nd ODI and took the series 2-1. It was a good warm-up for the Women's World Cup held a few weeks later in the same country. Power was proud to lead her region in the tournament, contributing 5 catches and 3 stumpings in addition to her leadership, which saw the team finish in a then best place of fifth. Testament to her dedication to her sport was the fact that, at the 2005 World Cup, Power became the oldest player to take part in an ODI, a record that stood until 2018. At the time Power was 47 years old, appearing in her last match for the Windies.

The following year she retired from the Trinidad and Tobago team. Having spent her final two years of national duty as player/coach, Power was already venturing towards a life of coaching. This she did with aplomb, becoming the only female ICC Level 2 certified trainer for the entire Americas region. As such, she was in high demand, tutoring players and future coaches in Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, Bermuda and the USA from 2006 to 2009. She was then appointed Assistant Coach for the West Indies Women's team, working with Sherwin Campbell.

In 2012 the Atlantis Cricket Club of New York made Power an honorary member, joining the likes of Clive Lloyd, Andy Roberts, 'Gus' Logie and

Curtly Ambrose. The club recognized her efforts and 'tireless commitment to the sport'. She remains a pundit whose opinions on women's cricket are often quoted in the media, while beyond coaching she is a dedicated match referee, officiating at regional tournaments. A life spent in cricket, enhancing her sport at every level, in 2017 Stephanie Power was awarded the Hummingbird Silver medal, and two years prior she was inducted into the Trinidad and Tobago Sports Hall of Fame.

Matches: Test 1; ODI 34

Batting: Test 76 runs, Average 38.00, Fifties 1; ODI 183 runs, Average 8.31

Fielding: ODI Catches 18, Stumpings 11