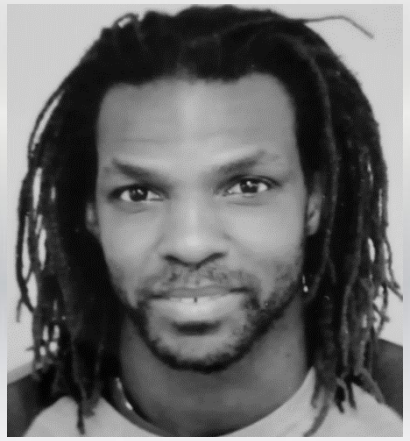
First Citizens Sports Foundation

# HALL OF FAME



## Dexter St. Louis

**(Posthumous)**

**Table Tennis**

**Inducted in 2020**

One of the most recognizable names in Trinidad and Tobago sport, and with good reason, is Dexter St. Louis, who became the nation's greatest table tennis player and is often regarded as the best player to emanate from the English-speaking Caribbean.

The left-handed St. Louis came through the local table tennis boom of the late 1970s into the early 1980s, when most schools had at least one table and there were heated battles during lunch hour and after school, creating a welcome base to recruit from. Add the fact that Trinidad and Tobago Table Tennis President David Farrell's promotion push included televised tournaments, and it was the perfect setting for a talented youth to make his debut.

By the age of 15 the Chaguanas born St. Louis was not only national junior champion, but had taken the senior crown as well.

He also attended his first international tournament when Trinidad and Tobago gave their new national champion exposure at the 1983 Caribbean Championships. St. Louis would repeat his national senior triumph in 1985 and booked his spot on the team to travel to Santo Domingo for the 1986 Central American & Caribbean (CAC) Games. His first Games garnered a bronze in the Men's Team event with Mansingh Amarsingh and Nigel Christopher, as well as bronze in the Men's Doubles, paired with Christopher.

He was fortunate to get a sponsor who allowed him to play in the USA, where he stayed for a year and half, and that then allowed him to attend a tournament in Martinique in 1992. St. Louis won the tournament, defeating players from France and many other European nations. With evidence of his class and talent on full display, his big leap forward came when – because of his win – he was offered a contract to play professionally in France. In 1993 he departed for Germany for five week's training then began to fulfil his initial two-year contract. St. Louis shone in the French League, taking his game to the next level.

He returned to win his first Caribbean Championship Men's Senior crown, the first Trinidad and Tobago player since Amarsingh in 1978 to bring home the title. Returning to France, he amassed enough points on both the professional and international circuit to fulfil the ambition that he once mentioned to David Farrell as a youth, to become the first Trinidad and Tobago player to represent the nation at the Olympics. Despite the fierce competition to qualify, St. Louis would be taking part in the 1996 Games in Atlanta. He played against 1991 Doubles World Champion Peter Karlsson (Sweden), North Korea's Kim-hui and Hugo

Hoyama of Brazil in the group stage, from which he did not progress, but he had made history for his country.

Two years later, in his second appearance at the CAC Games held in Maracaibo, Venezuela, St. Louis was in imperious form, blitzing his opponents to reach the final. He lost to Cuba's Francisco Arado, but St. Louis' silver was proof of his standing as one of the best in the western hemisphere.

Now fully residing in France, he partnered with his daughter Rheann Chung to form an impressive Mixed Doubles pairing that took on all comers in the French and European leagues. Age was not slowing down St. Louis, whose dedication in his gym work, practice and rest, remained as they were in his youth. In 2006 he again brought home CAC Games silver in the Men's Singles in Colombia, with Santo Domingo's Lin Ju taking the gold. At the same games, he teamed up with daughter Chung to secure a memorable bronze medal in the Mixed Doubles.

At the age of 40 he qualified for his second Olympic Games, this time in Beijing 2008. The manner of his qualification was remarkable, with St. Louis coming from behind at a competition in Santo Domingo to win against Mexico's Marcos Madrid. In doing so he secured the last available Olympic spot from the Latin American region.

In Beijing he exited at the group stage, then returned to the professional circuit. He teamed up with Chris Humphreys to win the bronze medal in the men's doubles at the 2014 CAC Games in Mexico. St. Louis also represented Trinidad and Tobago at the 2014 and 2018 Commonwealth Games (held in Scotland and Australia respectively). In between these

events, he made a welcome return to Trinidad to win his 7th and 8th senior national single's championships.

In May 2019 he passed away in France following a short illness. He was an integral part of the international circuit for over three decades and all European and Latin American competitions acknowledged his contribution to the sport by observing a minute's silence. Dexter St. Louis is intrinsically linked to table tennis. As such, he was posthumously inducted into the Trinidad and Tobago Sports Hall of Fame in 2020.

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| **National Championship Men's Singles:** | **1983, 1985, 1987, 1990, 1991, 1999, 2015, 2016** |
| **CAC Games:** | **1986 Bronze Team Competition**<br>**1986 Bronze Men's Doubles**<br>**1998 Silver Men's Singles**<br>**2006 Silver Men's Singles**<br>**2006 Bronze Mixed Doubles**<br>**2014 Bronze Men's Doubles** |
| **Caribbean Table Tennis Championship:** | **Men's Singles 1994, 1998, 2004, 2005, 2009, 2013**<br>**Men's Doubles 2000, 2004, 2005, 2007, 2009**<br>**Mixed Doubles with Rheann Chung 2000, 2004, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2011, 2013** |