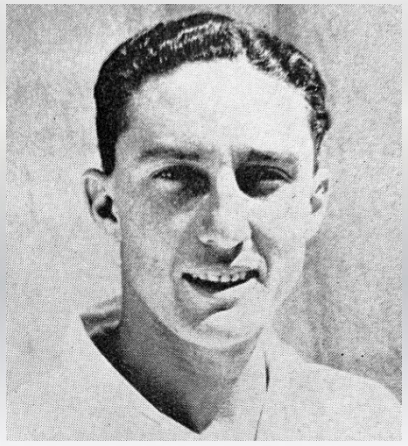
First Citizens Sports Foundation

HALL OF FAME



Jeffrey B. Stollmeyer

C.M.T.

Cricket

Inducted in 1985

To have played the game at the highest level is a magnificent achievement. To have been a leader of a powerhouse of a team is wonderful. To have influenced the entire culture of an institution in its infancy through to its global dominance is an altogether different category of sportsman.

The name Jeffrey Baxter Stollmeyer is synonymous with cricket, with West Indies, with excellence, with legacy. Born in Santa Cruz, his sporting career would owe much to the small distance between the Queen's Park Savannah, Queen's Park Cricket Club (QPCC) and, in between, his secondary school Queen's Royal College (QRC).

Racking up the runs for both school (QRC) and club (QPCC), Stollmeyer was a prodigy; a tall right-handed batsman with a graceful array of strokes all around the wicket and a penchant for an exquisite cover drive.

By 1938 he and his brother Victor were fixtures in the Trinidad and Tobago team, taking on the region's best in inter-colonial cricket.
The region then picked its best players to tour England in the summer of 1939 and there was little surprise that Stollmeyer was selected as one of the opening batsman. At the age of 18 a wonderful triple occurred: he was making his Test debut, it was at the home of cricket, Lord's, and he scored a fifty in his first innings.

The immediate onset of World War II that year put an end to any progress for any Test cricketers globally, but Jeffrey continued to hone his skill in regional cricket including an opening partnership of 224 with his brother against Barbados, both scoring centuries. Later, in March 1947, he scored 324 against British Guiana (whose entire team scored 326) as Trinidad and Tobago racked up an incredible 750 runs for their first innings at the Queen's Park Oval.

These performances marked him as the top opening batsman in the Caribbean, so his inclusion in the 1948 Windies squad for their first post-war Test series was academic. A half century in the first Test was followed by an injury that kept him out of the next two matches, before he returned to play in the 4th and last Test and help the Windies win a historic series.

On tour to India later that same year, Stollmeyer began to open the innings with Jamaican Allan Rae. It was the beginning of a formidable partnership and the first to add true stability to the top of the West Indies' order. In the 4th Test at Chennai, they put on a magnificent display, with 239 for the first wicket and setting up victory by an innings.

The Windies were now gearing up for their next tour, with the ambition to create history by beating England, in England. The formidable team included the three 'W's, Weekes, Worrell and Walcott, as well as Rae, Gerry Gomez, Alf Valentine, Sonny Ramadhin and Stollmeyer as vice-captain. The politics of the day still insisted upon a white captain for the West Indies, with John Goddard at the helm.

Stollmeyer took to his role and represented with aplomb, averaging 50.83 in the four Tests, scoring 1,334 runs on the tour and contributing in a massive way to the West Indies fulfilling its goal of winning the series in England.

After the highs of winning in England, the team was brought back to earth by a brutal tour of Australia in late 1951, with short-pitched bowling used by the hosts to intimidate the visitors. By the 5th Test, with the series lost, a disillusioned Goddard stepped down from the captaincy for that game and handed it to Stollmeyer. Jeffrey duly celebrated by scoring 104 at Sydney Cricket Ground.

He retained the captaincy for the 1953 home series against India, winning in Barbados (2nd Test) before scoring a memorable 104 in a drawn affair at the Queen's Park Oval. The remaining two matches were also draws, handing Stollmeyer a win in his first official series as captain. England touring the Caribbean in 1954 proved to be a sterner test, with a drawn series 2-2 and the captaincy taking its toll upon Stollmeyer's batting, with a single fifty in the final Test. He returned as captain in 1955 against Australia, but only played in two Tests due to injury. That innings in the 3rd Test would be his last Test match, but he was far from done with the game.

He retired from first-class cricket in 1957 and became involved with the administrative side of the sport. Having seen the approach of selecting a white captain for the Windies team and played with many talented players of colour within the team, Stollmeyer and Gerry Gomez set about persuading West Indies cricket that the time had come to select a captain based on talent and qualities, rather than race. It helped in the appointment of Stollmeyer's old teammate, Frank Worrell, as captain in 1960. It was a landmark moment for the English-speaking Caribbean that had yet to gain independence.

Stollmeyer began a stint as a selector for the regional team in the 1960s, before becoming President of the West Indies Cricket Board in 1974. It would be an unprecedented time to be at the helm of regional cricket, with the challenge of World Series Cricket and with most of the West Indies team joining the Kerry Packer-led initiative. Stollmeyer held his diplomatic nerve to steer the Board through this divisive period, where there was unbelievable pressure to resign. He continued until 1981 – with normal order restored to West Indies cricket – when he resigned from the Board. An interest in politics saw him become a Senator, while his autobiography, *Everything Under the Sun*, gave insight into the development of the region's cricket from someone who had lived the subject matter.

His club, QPCC, honored him with the Jeffrey Stollmeyer Stand that looks over the hallowed ground, while he also received the Chaconia Gold Medal in 1979 for services to sport. His remarkable legacy is further continued by the First Citizens Sports Foundation Jeffrey Stollmeyer

Memorial Award, which annually honors the best Sports Association in Trinidad and Tobago in the past year.

Jeffrey Baxter Stollmeyer was inducted into the Trinidad and Tobago Sports Hall of Fame in 1985.

Matches: Test 32; First Class 117

Batting: Test 2,159 runs, Average 42.33, Fifties 12, Hundreds 4; First Class 7,942 runs, Average 44.61, Fifties 38, Hundreds 14

Bowling: Test 13 Wickets, Average 39.00; First Class Wickets 55, Average 45.12