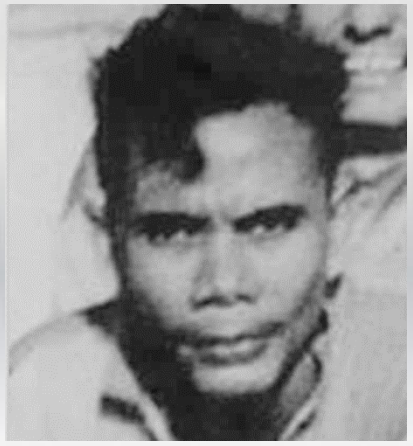
First Citizens Sports Foundation

HALL OF FAME



John Sutherland

Football

Inducted in 1989

Rated in his time as one of the most powerful kickers of football, John Sutherland etched his name among the great forwards in Trinidad and Tobago throughout the 1930s and 1940s, a period blessed with talented players when it was not easy to get into a first-class club side in either north or south Trinidad. Sutherland's skills shone throughout, ensuring his place in the forward lines of United British Oilfields Trinidad (UBOT) and the national team itself.

To have played at inside-left for Trinidad then, he had to out-class some of the finest players ever in that position, including the artistic Rex Burnett. Sutherland managed to do so, and no one who ever watched this tough, clever player, with the powerful shot, will deny him the right to be placed in the highest class of football stars who graced the fields of this country.

Sutherland was born in Port of Spain and attended Belmont R.C. School for whom he played. He always played in the forward line and became a star with the second-class team, Aston, as he developed his skills at the Queen's Park Savannah. In 1934 he went to work in the oil industry, and it was there that he joined UBOT, one of most powerful clubs to play first-class football in Trinidad and Tobago, far less the Southern Amateur Football League (SAFL).

His squat, powerful build brought him the moniker 'Bull', thereby christened 'John Bull' by the crowds. 'Bull' represented South in almost every Red Cross Cup Classic against North from 1934 to 1948, and was in the UBOT teams that won the nationwide FA Trophy in 1937 and 1941, and the Gooden Chisholm Cup in 1941, 1943, 1945 and 1949. He was a member of the great South forward line-up that also included local legends Babsie Daniel, Neville 'Watty' Douglas, Ken Galt and Boysie Monteil.

Sutherland first represented Trinidad in 1935 against Jamaica, in Jamaica, and played for his country in internationals versus Suriname and British Guiana (now Guyana). He became a part-time British Army soldier in 1939 when the Second World War began. That year he reserved his talent for UBOT, for whom he continued to play during the war years when that club reigned supreme in the SAFL. In 1943 UBOT won every match they contested, including the FA Trophy clash with Sporting Club of the North whom they beat 3-1, and the memorable Gooden Chisholm game with Fleet Air Arm, who led 4-0 at half time only to see UBOT recover to win 6-5.

Sutherland continued to play first-class football into the 1950s, but gave way in the South team to younger players. He remained in the game until he was 55, playing in friendlies and some competitive matches on Sunday mornings, still packing a wallop with both feet.

He was also a good club cricketer, often playing for UBOT during the cricket season. No sooner did the season end and he would be back in his togs, hunting for goalkeepers.

UBOT invariably struck fear in the hearts of North teams from the Port of Spain League, and the 'Bull' was one of the main reasons for that trepidation. John Sutherland enjoyed a long career, full of many trophies and even more goals. As such, he was inducted into the Trinidad and Tobago Sports Hall of Fame in 1989.