First Citizens Sports Foundation

HALL OF FAME



Trinidad & Tobago 1987 World Netball Championship Team

Inducted in 2023

Back in the 1980s netball in Trinidad and Tobago was arguably at its peak. The sport had taken hold amongst young women nationally thanks to the development work done by the likes of Lystra Lewis. A tremendous boost occurred in 1979 when Lewis helped to organise this country's staging of the World Netball Championships (now the INF Netball World Cup), which ended with the Lewis-coached Trinidad and Tobago team historically sharing the global title with Australia and New Zealand.

A good group led by Jean Pierre had been established and, in its follow-up, Trinidad and Tobago earned third-place in the 1983 World Championships in Singapore behind champion Australia and second-place New Zealand. Netball in this country continued to be established at the top level with the well-known All-Sectors Netball League, while the game started to become an institution throughout the secondary schools.

In 1987 Pierre had been appointed as national team coach as Trinidad and Tobago made its latest go at the World Championships, this time in Scotland. Many notable players were under her watch, including Bridget Adams, Sharon Castanada, Heather Charleau, Muriel Mitchell and Hazel Taylor. Centred at the outdoor Crownpoint Sports Park in Glasgow, the competition drew large support which witnessed this country's representatives managing to top first round Group A with 13 points from victories over Canada, Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka, Fiji, Northern Ireland and second-place group finisher Australia (won by a one-point, 51-50 margin). Only a 50-50 tie with Jamaica sullied what could have been a perfect record.

On to the final round which Trinidad and Tobago began with an encouraging 42-33 triumph over England. The next game saw the Jennifer Frank captained team share the spoils with Australia in a 46-46 draw. So, it all came down to the final fixture versus New Zealand. In the end, Trinidad and Tobago succumbed to a 49-37 defeat that gave the Kiwis their third crown. This country's Calypso Girls and Australia, with three points each, would earn joint second-place.

A third top-three finish in a row at the World Netball Championships – a really fantastic accomplishment. Not only was it a source of pride for Trinidad and Tobago to be shooting for the stars with the world's best, the achievement of 1987 helped solidify netball's standing on the domestic scene for future generations of players.

The team was inducted into the Trinidad and Tobago Sports Hall of Fame in 2023.