First Citizens Sports Foundation

HALL OF FAME



George Terry

Cycling

Inducted in 1985

He was the first Trinidad and Tobago cyclist to earn an individual medal at an international Games, which is a big enough achievement. It gains extra credence when taking into consideration that the medal was won in an endurance event – a rare feat for Trinbagonian athletes.

George Terry based himself in Siparia, south Trinidad, which remains a hotbed of local cycling to this day. From there he trained and raced most weekends on the tracks across the country, showing a remarkable aptitude for the longer distances. Terry could finish on the podium in most races, but the longer the event the better for him. In local parlance, he was 'a real iron man'.

He began racing in 1939 in south Trinidad, and within two years was the rider to watch in any race over one mile.

In a May 1943 meet at the Queen's Park Oval, Terry was at the top of his powers, engaging in a memorable battle with noted endurance rider 'Spider' Mulrain in the 9 Mile event, and winning in front of thousands of fans. In 1944 he ventured abroad to Curaçao for an international meet where he triumphed in the 5.5 Mile and 6.5 Mile events. Proving his prowess back at home, Terry comfortably won the 15 Mile race at the St. Joseph Recreation ground in early 1946. This was perfect timing, with the Central American & Caribbean (CAC) Games to be held in March of the same year in Barranquilla, Colombia.

Given his endurance, the track events in Colombia were more suited to the sprinters and pursuiters (Trinidad and Tobago would gain a bronze in the Team Pursuit at these Games), so Terry was entered in the road race. The 100km course was selective, but he made it into the final group that would stay together to the finish to contest the sprint for the medals. It was a tight finish, so tight that Terry thought that he had won. Venezuelan Victor Fernandez just edged ahead at the line, while Terry was just ahead of Costa Rica's Rigoberto Salazar. All three finished with a time of 2hrs 59mins 3secs.

A silver medal in a discipline rarely contested by Trinidad and Tobago cyclists at the time represented a fantastic achievement. It would be another 64 years until Trinidad and Tobago earned a medal in the CAC Games road race, when Emile Abraham emulated Terry's silver in 2010.

He continued to race within the Caribbean region until 1952, by which time he had amassed almost 100 wins. In 1985, for his cycling

achievements, George Terry was inducted into the Trinidad and Tobago Sports Hall of Fame.

CAC Games **1946 Silver Road Race**