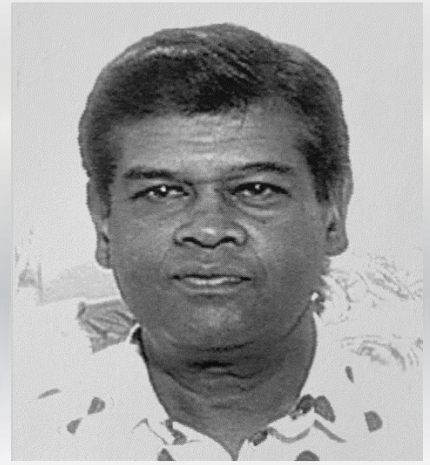
First Citizens Sports Foundation

HALL OF FAME



Mansingh Amarsingh

Table Tennis

Inducted in 2008

He continues to play the game daily, a passion for table tennis that has seen Mansingh Amarsingh travel throughout the Caribbean and Latin American region representing Trinidad and Tobago, winning titles and earning accolades. He broke new ground for the sport and became the example for other players to follow. In some instances, Amarsingh's longevity enabled him to compete with those local players that followed in his wake.

Based in south Trinidad, Amarsingh tasted success early in his career – such was his skill – when he was part of the Texaco table tennis team that won the national senior team title in 1964. Announcing himself in such a manner, he was selected for the national team to play in the Caribbean Championship in Georgetown, Guyana. It was Amarsingh's first taste of international competition, though this was hardly noticeable as he made it to the finals in both the junior and senior Singles competitions, before losing in both instances.

His 1964 win with Texaco was the beginning of his long association with team play, expandedtwo years later when the 19-year-old Amarsingh helped Trinidad and Tobago win gold in the team event at the 1966 Central American & Caribbean (CAC) Table Tennis Championship held in Curaçao. He also teamed up with Egbert McBaptiste to win the CAC Doubles title at those same championships. Capping off his year, he won a bronze medal in the men's Singles at the national championships.

Amarsingh and Texaco continued their dominance with six consecutive wins (1964-1969) in the national championships. But, in 1973, he formed a new team together with Lionel Darceuil and Derek de Silva: the BWIA Giants. They would go on to become the dominant force in local table tennis for the next decade. Soon after their formation, Amarsingh was testing himself against some of the very best players in the region: when Trinidad and Tobago played Cuba and he was unbeaten throughout the series – a feat that he would repeat against the same opponents in 1975. During the same period, he also defeated the top ranked players from the Dominican Republic.

At the 1976 nationals the Giants emphasized their supremacy when Darceuil and Amarsingh reached the final of the Men's Singles, with Darceuil winning. But it all came together for Amarsingh in 1978 at the Caribbean Championships held in Trinidad. After a seesawing drawn out battle against a Cuban opponent in the Singles semi-final Amarsingh was spent, but the final took place on the same evening. He was cramping up during the final against Guyana's George Brathwaite, even taking to the ground in pain. But, Amarsingh found the strength to bounce back and take the regional title on home soil.

Now recognized as the best player in the Caribbean, he was sought out by many competitors, including the US table tennis team that toured Trinidad later that year, eager to play Amarsingh in a match that never materialized due to differences in opinion over fees. It highlighted Amarsingh's standing in the hemispheric game and his local popularity.
In 1982 he secured another CAC Championship medal, a silver, before taking a hiatus from international competition. When he returned, it had been a four-year absence, but Amarsingh was chosen for the 1986 CAC Games in Santo Domingo, teaming up with the new crop of players, Dexter St Louis and Nigel Christopher, to win the bronze medal in the Team competition.

He continued to represent Giants and, even at the age of 42, was considered good enough to represent Trinidad and Tobago at the 1989 World Championships in Dortmund, Germany. There, he won two of his three games in what would be his national team swansong.

An operator at the south oil refinery during his competitive era, Amarsingh continues to play table tennis almost daily. In 2012 the Latin American Table Tennis Union honoured Amarsingh for his outstanding performances in the region, while the Trinidad & Tobago Table Tennis Association made him an Honorary Life Member four years later. In 1999, he was awarded the Hummingbird Medal (Silver) and, in 2008, Mansingh Amarsingh was inducted into the Trinidad and Tobago Sports Hall of Fame.

Caribbean Table Tennis Championship: 1978 Men's Singles

CAC Table

Tennis Championship:	**1966 Team Competition**
	1966 Men's Doubles
CAC Games:	**1986 Bronze Team Competition**