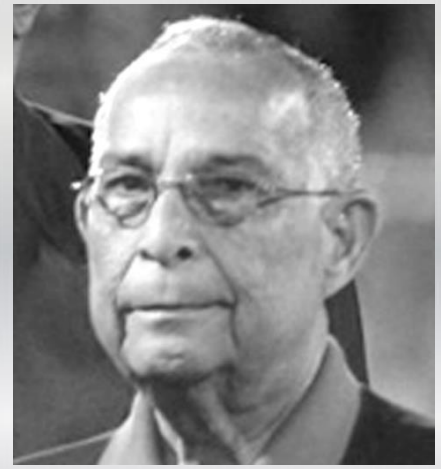
First Citizens Sports Foundation

HALL OF FAME



Oliver Camps

Administrator

Inducted in 2008

A servant to the game of football for over four decades, Oliver Camps literally gave almost everything that he had due to his love of the sport and his desire to see it progress. That he was able to witness the glorious highs such as the qualification for the 2006 men's World Cup, or the continued evolution of the women's national team, was just reward for this administrator.

As a child, Camps took part in everything that was on offer: football, cricket, hockey, basketball, cycling, tennis and boxing. It was about taking part, something that gave Camps a thrill.

He got his grounding at one of the nation's premier sports clubs, Harvard in Port of Spain, which he joined in 1952. By 1961, Camps was made the Secretary of Harvard, with duties that oversaw some of the best football and cricket talent in Trinidad. It was a post that he carried out with aplomb, evidenced by the duration that he held it, until 1986.



He became the Vice-President from 1989 to 1990, before serving as Harvard President from 1990 to 2010. After these stints he was named Patron of the club until the time of his passing.

The early administrative experience at Harvard imbued Camps with a desire to spread his skills wider to encompass the national team. By the 1960s he was serving on many committees within the TTFF (Trinidad & Tobago Football Federation), and by the early 1970s he was the manager of the Trinidad and Tobago men's team that was attempting to create history by qualifying for the 1974 World Cup. When the team lost to Haiti in extremely dubious circumstances that ended the World Cup dream, it was Camps that had to take the players through the heartache and disappointment.

The experience would stand him in good stead, because on 19th November 1989, there would be even greater heartbreak, when the Camps-managed Trinidad and Tobago only needed a single point against the USA, playing in Port of Spain, to qualify for the 1990 World Cup. Having lost 1-0, Trinidad and Tobago were thrown into shock and Camps, who was managing the national team for the better part of two decades and was an integral part of getting them to an unprecedented level of play during that qualifying campaign, was again called upon to deal with the aftermath.

Undaunted by the result, Camps used his passion to build towards the future. Players spoke of his ability to 'make things happen' to ensure that their preparation was as good as can be. Everald 'Gally' Cummings summed up Camps' style: "As a manager, he was a nice, cool guy, always willing to make sure all was comfortable. He had a nice rapport with the

players and the technical staff. He was always a man you could approach for anything."

Camps sought to have greater influence by becoming the TTFF President in 1992, a post that he would hold for 19 years. With that role he also took on key positions within global governing body FIFA, regional body the Caribbean Football Union, as well as CONCACAF.

By the 2000 CONCACAF Gold Cup, there was evidence of the progress that Camps wanted when a scintillating Trinidad and Tobago (under coach Bertille St. Clair) reached the semi-finals. It helped to lay the foundation for the ultimate prize that would be achieved in 2006: World Cup qualification. A proud Camps, as TTFF President, would travel to Germany, having provided the means for the best preparation for the team in the world's premier tournament.

There was again an aftermath to cope with, this time several controversies surrounding the national players' pay entitlement from their World Cup appearances as well as a ticket sales scandal. As President, Camps had some liability but tried to set matters right by selling his home to cover some of the debt owed by TTFF.

It was not a perfect run – for sports administrators it seldom is – but Camps' administrative skills (he held senior positions at Maritime Insurance Company, which he helped to grow into a major business entity) and passion for sport were key ingredients in helping to take Trinidad and Tobago football through the highs and lows of competition, throughout his almost five decades in the sport. In 2008, two years after

the 2006 World Cup, Oliver Camps was inducted into the Trinidad and Tobago Sports Hall of Fame.