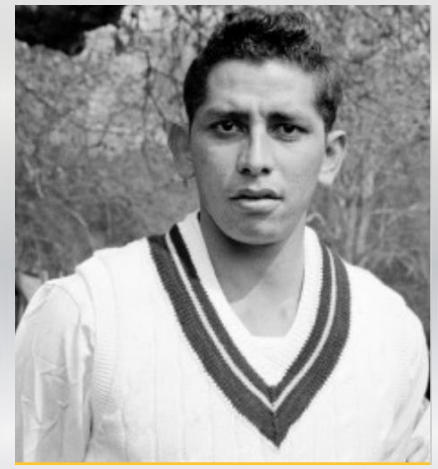
First Citizens Sports Foundation

HALL OF FAME



Micheal "Joey" Carew

Cricket

Inducted in 1987

A great thinker of a game in which he was deeply involved in for over 50 years, as player, victorious captain, mentor, and selector, 'Joey' Carew was a no-nonsense personality. He called it as he saw it, an attribute that was perfect for all the roles that he had within cricket. He was a leader of men that brought home unprecedented titles to Trinidad and Tobago and was integral to the dominance of the West Indies team throughout the 1970s to the 1990s.

He was a product of Woodbrook, born there and educated at Fatima College, mere steps away from his home. There, he showed his prowess in both cricket and football, but it was evident that his batting – left-handed and very strong playing off the back foot – was where his future lay. It was supported by his tactical nous, not least as a very good leg spin bowler.

By the age of 18 he was selected to play for Trinidad and Tobago against a touring side from England, EW Stanton's XI, and began his long stint as a member of the national team.

He had not yet cemented the role of opening batsman, so was in the middle order, learning his trade on the domestic (for Queen's Park Cricket Club – QPCC) and regional circuit. In October 1959, against Jamaica at Bourda, he made his maiden first-class century with 114 batting at number five. That performance was then backed up by scores of 70 and 102 not out in a warm-up match against the touring England team; Carew was now in the limelight.

His consistency in regional cricket earned him a place on the Windies team for the 1963 tour of England, where he hardly troubled the scorers in the first few tour matches versus the counties. By the time they played Lancashire, Carew got accustomed to the swinging ball in English conditions and registered 93 runs as an opener. 74 against Surrey was followed by 117 against Glamorgan, which put him into the team for the First Test. A score of 16 on Test debut was not ideal but the Windies won the match. Carew did not play in the Second Test but returned for the Third, posting a score of 40 in the first innings.

Returning to Trinidad, he maintained his role as an opener for Trinidad and Tobago and awaited a recall to the regional side. That came in 1966, again for a tour to England, where he played only one Test, the Second, and had scored four 50s against the counties as well as 132 versus Gloucestershire.

He did not play again for West Indies until his recall in early 1968 against England for the Fourth Test on his home ground at the QPCC. Scores of 36 and 40 represented more consistency at the highest level and earned him selection for the Windies tour of Australia and New Zealand.

Carew took an immediate liking to the warmer conditions, scoring 83 and 71 in the First Test at Brisbane, to help West Indies win by 125 runs. Some scores in the 30s kept his average decent in the subsequent Tests, then he scored 36 and 90 in the Fourth Test at Adelaide. A further 50 followed in the Fifth Test, taking his tour Test average to 47.44 from five matches; only Garry Sobers was ahead of him.

He took the good form onto the second half of the tour, the Windies winning the first match, with Carew scoring 109 opening the innings, his first and only Test century. He came close to a second ton when he scored 91 in the Third Test, as the teams drew the series. He was duly named Sportsman of the Year.

When the Windies toured England in 1969, Carew opened with 126 versus Combined Universities, 122 versus Somerset, and a score of 176 runs against Leicestershire, part of a 2nd wicket partnership of 324 runs with Roy Fredricks. He only played in the second of the three Test matches, where he scored 44.

Installed as Trinidad and Tobago captain, he was at his tactical best as the 1970 season began and, with it, thoughts of doing the unprecedented: winning the regional Shell Shield tournament. The previous season he scored three centuries in three consecutive Shell Shield innings. This time around Carew contributed four 50s but it was his canny use of his bowlers, especially the spinners that earned Trinidad and Tobago the wins and draws to take the coveted title. Soon after, he captained North Trinidad in the Texaco Cup, scoring 182 against Central Trinidad.

Backing up a series triumph is sometimes more difficult than the initial victory, and Trinidad and Tobago's 1971 campaign as defending Shell Shield champions got off to a rocky start with a loss to Barbados. However, under Carew's captaincy they bounced back with two draws, then a 10 wicket win over Jamaica, to seal Trinidad and Tobago's second Shell Shield. Carew led from the front with the most runs in the competition: 347 in 7 innings and an average of 57.83. In between, he played three Test matches against the touring Indian team, with a top score of 44.

New Zealand were the touring team in 1972. Carew scored another century against them, this time for Trinidad and Tobago, playing in a warmup match. In the Test matches he had indifferent form, with a high score of 45. He played until the Third Test in Barbados, which turned out to be his final match at Test level. Carew continued to captain Trinidad and Tobago until the 1974 season, then retired from first-class cricket.

His contribution to Caribbean cricket was far from over; he became a selector for the West Indies, where his encyclopedic knowledge of the game and his eye for talent helped the regional team towards its world dominance. It was no easy task for a selector when faced with a conveyor belt of talent for every position. Among those he fought for to be selected were Joel Garner and Colin Croft, who were not on the radar of other selectors. Among those that he mentored – including having him take up residence in Carew's own home – was a talented left-hander from Santa Cruz, one Brian Charles Lara.

With over 20 years in the role, Carew became the longest serving West Indies selector (including a stint as Chairman). He retired in 2006. He also served as an administrator at his club, QPCC.

In 1974 he was awarded the Hummingbird Gold medal in the national honours list, while in 1987 'Joey' Carew was inducted into the Trinidad and Tobago Sports Hall of Fame.

Matches: Test 19; First Class 129

Batting: Test 1,127 runs, Average 34.15, Hundreds 1, Fifties 5; First Class 7,810 runs, Average 38.47, Hundreds 13, Fifties 43

Bowling: Test Wickets 8, Average 54.62; First Class Wickets 108, Average 29.75

Fielding: Test catches 13; First Class Catches 83
Sportsman of the Year: 1969