First Citizens Sports Foundation

HALL OF FAME



Sandra Charles - Montano H.B.M

Hockey

Inducted in 1995

Sandra Charles-Montano was born with sporting genes. Her father was the impeccable all-rounder Ahamed Charles, whose excellence in cricket, football, hockey and cycling made him a natural choice as part of the first wave of inductees into the Hall of Fame in 1984. That his daughter is also in the Hall of Fame, for one of the sports that Ahamed played, is testament to the family's talent as well as Sandra's application, skill and determination.

Growing up in south Trinidad, Charles-Montano attended St. Peter's School in Pointe-à-Pierre where she first showed an aptitude for hockey, especially in front of goal. Her natural speed and close ball control made her an easy choice for the center forward position from her early teens. It was within that age bracket that the selectors could not ignore her talent and she made the Pointe-à-Pierre team that traveled to Port of Spain to compete in the national first division competitions.



By 1962, Charles-Montano was part of the Trinidad and Tobago team that took part in the first ever regional junior hockey tournament, and announced her national team career in the best way possible. She scored an incredible three hat-tricks during the competition as Trinidad and Tobago romped to victory and Charles-Montano was named Player of the Tournament.

One year later, she earned her senior national cap at the age of 17, making her debut at a triangular tournament held in Jamaica, that Trinidad and Tobago won, creating a nice sequence of victory for Charles-Montano. She began there as she intended to continue throughout her career, with a bagful of goals. Charles-Montano joined the Ventures club when she moved to Port of Spain and remained a fixture in the national side, scoring with great regularity and, in the process, contributing to Trinidad and Tobago's progress regionally. Good performances earned the team a place in the 1967 International Federation Women's Hockey (IFWHA) World Conference, which was the forerunner to the Women's Hockey World Cup. Held in Leverkusen, Germany, Trinidad and Tobago, with Charles-Montano leading the attack, represented well with a 1-0 win against Jamaica, a 1-0 win versus Spain, and 0-0 draws against France, Austria and Switzerland. They lost 6-1 to Belgium and 2-1 to Scotland.

Charles-Montano was an integral part of the national team that then went to the 1975 IFWHA World Conference in Scotland. There the team beat Bermuda 3-0, Austria 1-0, Zambia 2-1, drew 1-1 with Great Britain U-23, lost 4-1 to Canada, and 4-0 to both Ireland and perennial powerhouse the Netherlands.

The team also toured Canada in the mid-1970s, further enhancing Trinidad and Tobago women's hockey. In every instance, on every tour, Charles would be among the top goal scorers for her country, and when she retired from competitive play in 1978 she was the top goal scorer of international goals of any Caribbean nation, having played over 100 internationals during her distinguished career.

An avid tennis player that won many club titles including the Country Club Open, and a badminton player that was good enough to represent Trinidad and Tobago, she also used her post-hockey period to master the game of golf. For services to hockey she was awarded the Hummingbird Medal Gold in 1974, and in 1995 Sandra Charles Montano, the hockey goal machine, was inducted into the Trinidad and Tobago Sports Hall of Fame.