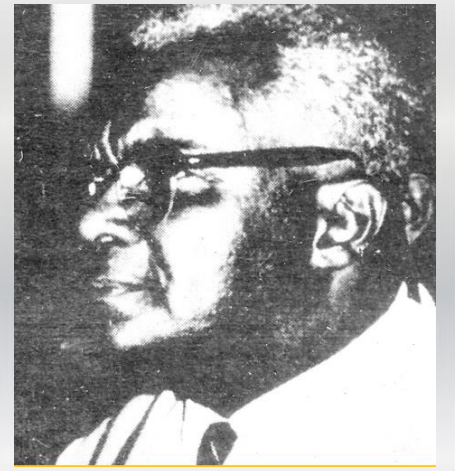
First Citizens Sports Foundation

HALL OF FAME



Errol Dos Santos

Administrator

Inducted in 1987

A sports fan with an astute sense of administration, especially in finance, Sir Errol Dos Santos lent his considerable skill to the fast-developing world of local and regional sport, enabling it in its growth. His legacy is still seen in the cricket infrastructure across the Caribbean and the competition format of Trinidad and Tobago cricket.

A student at St. Mary's College, Port of Spain, Dos Santos played minor competitive roles in cricket, football and hockey, but was focused on his career in public service. He rose through the ranks to become Treasurer for the Colony of Trinidad and Tobago in the 1930s, before attaining the role of Colonial Secretary in 1943, when he also became the vice-President of the Queen's Park Cricket Club (QPCC).

His impact upon the club was immediate and far-reaching. One of the peculiarities of the time was that Trinidad and Tobago cricket was controlled by QPCC – an arrangement that remained in place until 1981 with the formation of the Trinidad & Tobago Board of Control – allowing Dos Santos' role at the club to have wide influence. These were the World War II years, with international cricket suspended. Dos Santos, as head of the Management Committee, arranged the Goodwill series to be played between Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, British Guiana and Jamaica. When Test cricket resumed in 1948, the Goodwill series ensured that the West Indies players were fit and ready.

By 1952, Dos Santos was the President of the West Indies Cricket Board of Control (WICBC), a position that he held for eight years, moving the headquarters of the regional body to Port of Spain. He also recognized the need to address the division that existed in league cricket across Trinidad, taking the first step to rectify the situation by helping to set up the Trinidad Cricket Council (TCC) in 1956. Prior to this formation, premier sides in south Trinidad played for the Rahamut Cup, while premier northern teams competed for the Bonanza Cup. The TCC brought both competitions under one umbrella, as well as the governance, for which Dos Santos also lent a hand in setting up the Umpire's Association.

When Trinidad and Tobago gained its independence in 1962, Dos Santos took the role of President of QPCC. He began by enacting major upgrades to the club's infrastructure, transforming it into the familiar world-class ground that has seen so many magnificent and thrilling performances throughout its proud history, and which continues to the modern day. With his financial shrewdness, he generated income for these projects

by issuing life member seats for sale or offering named stands to large corporations to enable them to be enacted. His vision was not limited to QPCC. Dos Santos initiated the formula for the Caribbean Test Match grounds to receive funding from the WICBC, allowing the grounds to upgrade their facilities and increase their capacity, which in turn benefitted the WICBC.

He remained QPCC President until 1982, retiring before he emigrated to England. Away from the cricket world, Dos Santos made a seamless transition from public work life to the private sector. He was chairman of several prominent Trinidad and Tobago companies including Alstons, West Indian Oil Ltd and BWIA. For his public services to Trinidad and Tobago he was knighted in 1946 and, for his services to cricket, Sir Errol Dos Santos was inducted into the Trinidad and Tobago Sports Hall of Fame in 1987.