First Citizens Sports Foundation

HALL OF FAME



Angela "Pinky" Drayton

Netball

Inducted in 1987

An icon of the local game, netball's Angela Drayton contributed to the massive growth of the sport throughout the 1960s and 70s, with solid performances locally and internationally. An attendee of three world championships, she helped Trinidad and Tobago attain a string of high placings that led to their eventual world championship title in 1979.

It was at Rose Hill Primary School in east Port of Spain that Drayton was introduced to netball, showcasing her skills as a centre court player at the age of nine and rising quickly to become the team's captain. By 1962 she was playing for the intermediate team of the Carib Senators, one of the top teams in the nation's top division, the Port of Spain league. It was her first exposure to club competition and, with Trinidad and Tobago producing class players, Drayton more than held her own amongst the tough rivalries.

As such, she was selected for the league's North B team as well as the Port of Spain junior team. In 1964, aged just 14, she was promoted to the Senators A team; in effect she made it to the nation's top league within two years.



Drayton was versatile. Beyond the ball handling skills that made her a stalwart in centre court, she was also deft at the ability to pass and run off the ball and could play in the wing attack and goal attack positions. Despite her age, it was not long until her A team selection was followed by selection for the national team. Once she began representing the red, white and black, Drayton was never left out.

The 2nd World Netball Championships were being held in Australia in 1967, with Trinidad and Tobago eager to improve upon its 4th place four years earlier. Drayton was part of a squad that earned some good results, including a massive 73-9 win over Singapore (the largest winning gap of the Worlds) and came close to emulating the results of 1963 with 5th place.

Having had the exposure of the world stage, Drayton returned to Trinidad and Tobago duties for the regional championships. In 1970, Trinidad and Tobago won the Caribbean championships held in St Lucia, with Drayton and her teammates defending their title from 1972-1974. During this period, Drayton was at the top of her game, evidenced by the awards that she collected including netball's Sportswoman of the Year, Golden Girl of the Year and Most Disciplined Player of the POS League.

In between, she attended her second World Championships, this time held closer to home in Jamaica in 1971. The team finished 4th once again, including a 34-34 draw with the hosts, a 72-24 win against Bahamas, and a 66-14 defeat of Northern Ireland. The team were maintaining the country's place as one of the best teams in the world and came agonizingly close to a final podium place.

She travelled to New Zealand for the 1975 World Championships, which would be her last, and it was to be a frustrating 4th place once again behind the usual suspects Australia, England, and New Zealand. The gap was closing, evidenced by a 39-37 loss to England and 45-37 loss to Australia, coupled with wins such as 82-17 versus Papua New Guinea and 53-50 against Jamaica.
She may have been at the height of her playing career, but Drayton called time on competitive play to pursue her education in Canada, before returning to Trinidad where she became a teacher at the Servol School.

As in netball, her work was outstanding, earning her an award in 1986 for Outstanding Contribution to the Community of Laventille. For her contribution and performances in the A Division the POS League was named after her, before the leagues were amalgamated and named the national First Division. In 1987, Angela Drayton was part of the third set of inductees to the Trinidad and Tobago Sports Hall of Fame.