First Citizens Sports Foundation

HALL OF FAME



Marjorie Fernandez - Williams

Hockey

Inducted in 1995

A tall athlete that participated in numerous sports (as was the practice in her era, where multi-talented individuals took part in multiple disciplines), Majorie Fernandes Williams, later to be known as 'Paddy', was a natural sportswoman who tried her hand at the popular events of the 1950s and 1960s, but truly shone in hockey.

As a student of Holy Name Convent, Port of Spain, Williams gravitated towards netball, where her tall frame suited the game. Similarly, she shone on the basketball court at the school and played tennis, which was gaining popularity throughout the 1940s. But, once Williams picked up a hockey stick in her later years at the school, she found her calling.

The women's hockey league was in its infancy in the 1940s, but by the 1950s there were more clubs being formed to take part in the league, while the national team was being given more opportunities to compete. Williams took up the role of defender, specifically a full back whose robust play cut down many an opposition's attacking play.



But, it was balanced with a sense of fair play – something for which she became renowned on the local circuit.

Still a teenager, she was selected for the Trinidad and Tobago team for the 1953 series against British Guiana and remained a fixture in the squad for the next seven years. With other Caribbean territories unable to field teams, Jamaica, Guiana and Trinidad and Tobago formulated an extended inter-colonial tournament that lasted from 1957-1960. It was during this competition that Williams made her greatest contribution to the game, becoming the national vice-captain in 1958, and winning three awards for outstanding play. By 1960, she was elevated to captain and used her experience to mentor the next crop of national hockey players.

For players such as Williams, their participation in the sport helped women's hockey along its path, enabling it to expand its league, to reach the position of hosting powerhouses like the Netherlands, and to take part in the forerunner to the Hockey World Cup, all within the decade after Williams retired from competitive play. For her skill and influence, Majorie Fernandes Williams was inducted into the Trinidad and Tobago Sports Hall of Fame in 1995.