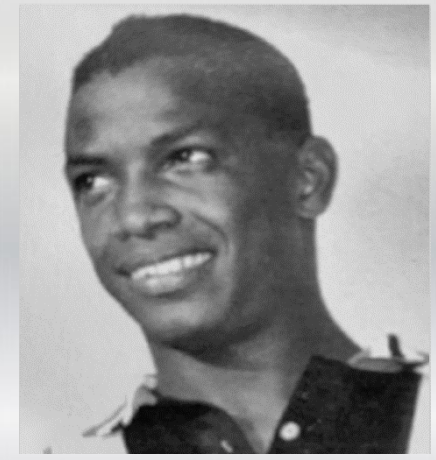
First Citizens Sports Foundation

HALL OF FAME



Fitzroy Hoyte

Cycling

Inducted in 2008

Part of the list of outstanding cyclists that continues to emanate from Trinidad and Tobago, Fitzroy Hoyte was dominant on the local cycling scene of the 1960s, where international level racing was a fixture in the early part of each year.

The powerfully built Barataria-born Hoyte (who would later earn the nickname 'Thunder Thighs') was drawn to cycling, with its growing popularity and integral place of any sports meet, after he dabbled in football. The proliferation of racing meets across Trinidad every weekend provided plenty of opportunities for the young cyclist to hone his talent and rack up victories. While many of his rivals excelled over the shorter sprint distances, Hoyte was versatile and could be equally at home in a 5,000 metres race as he was in the more popular 500 metres races. He was also a good road racer, able to place on the podium in gruelling distances of 80 miles or more. He won the Port of Spain to Sangre Grande race as well as the San Fernando to Port of Spain race.

By the early 1960s he was the national record holder over the 500m, 1,000m and 1500m distances. This was no easy feat as local cycling was awash with talent, with older riders such as Compton Gonsalves just vacating the podium, but being replaced by new champions headed by Roger Gibbon. Added to this, World and Olympic medallists came to race during the March to May period each year, making Trinidad a hotbed of international, world-class racing.

Hoyte held his own. Among the many scalps that he took were those of France's triple Olympic gold medallist Daniel Morelon, Venezuela's Daniel Lariall, and Italy's Luigi Roncaglia. In 1962 he was named Champion Cyclist at the multi-sport BP Games and Shell Games. A year later, he represented Trinidad and Tobago at the 1963 Pan Am Games in São Paulo, Brazil, a year when he also attended the Aruba International and was awarded Most Outstanding Cyclist. He later travelled to Jamaica and took second place in the Port Antonio to Kingston road race.

Good results into 1964, which included a stellar showing at the Eastern International Games where he defeated several cyclists who would be representing their nations at the Olympics later that year, saw Hoyte selected – together with Gibbon – as Trinidad and Tobago's cycling representatives for the Tokyo Olympic Games. Hoyte took part in the Sprint but did not get past the first round.

Hoyte continued his mix of local and international podium places and a healthy rivalry with Gibbon (to the joy of local fans) which saw him remain in contention for national team selection for 1965 and 1966. The latter year had the Central American & Caribbean (CAC) Games as well as the Commonwealth Games, both taking place in the Caribbean. By

earning selection for both, Hoyte represented his nation at all the major Games in which Trinidad and Tobago could take part.

In Jamaica for the Commonwealths, he took part in the 10 Mile Scratch Race and the Kilometre Time Trial, placing 5th in the latter. In the late 1960s Hoyte returned to football, competing as he did in cycling, at an elite level locally, with Ebonites in the National League First Division. He would later help to form the Barataria Super League that became popular in the 1970s and 1980s.

Those 'Thunder Thighs' took him to many a victory, sending crowds into delight as he crossed the line. His name is synonymous with the golden era of cycling and, as such, Fitzroy Hoyte was inducted into the Trinidad and Tobago Sports Hall of Fame in 2008.