First Citizens Sports Foundation

HALL OF FAME



Majorie John

All – Rounder

Inducted in 1987

Six completely different sports. That is what this amazing all-rounder represented for her nation as she strived for excellence and honed her natural talent. She provided true meaning to the term ‘multi-sport athlete’.

Majorie John, daughter of West Indies fast bowler George John, was an only child who grew up in Woodbrook, Port of Spain, near to the Woodbrook market area as well as the famed Woodbrook Youth Centre. Both would prove pivotal in her sporting career. The former was the place that John would go to play cricket with the boys from the area, practicing her batting and bowling and securing a place as the only girl on the Woodbrook EC school cricket team. At the Youth Centre, John was drawn to the table tennis table where the unofficial rule was that the winner stayed on. Soon, she was on the table often, taking on all comers and showing natural talent for the sport. John entered official competitions, beginning in the C Class.

She progressed through the ranks quickly and became the 1948 Ladies Singles Champion. It would be a crown that John held until 1954, when she only relinquished it to focus on other sports.

Her national team representation began in 1949, when Trinidad and Tobago visited Guyana and John returned from the tour as the only unbeaten player. She would return to win the Singles title in 1958 and then teamed with Petal Lee Loy to win the Ladies Doubles title in 1959 and 1960.

Netball was very popular in the 1950s and John wanted to be in on the action. She joined the Eton club before moving onto the Cherry Blossoms, playing mainly in the wing attack position in the ultra-competitive Port of Spain League. Her performances there got her picked for the Trinidad and Tobago team that took part in the 1955, 1956 and 1961 West Indies Championships. When England visited Trinidad and Tobago on tour in 1962, John played against them, earning – like the rest of her team – valuable experience for the first Netball World Championships held in England in 1963. Trinidad and Tobago performed amazingly at the tournament, and for the game against Northern Ireland John was made captain, as her team handed out a 59-11 drubbing, with John scoring 16 points. She also scored 22 of the 45 points Trinidad and Tobago scored against Ceylon (Sri Lanka). They just missed out on the final podium, finishing in 4th place.

Career-wise, John joined the Trinidad and Tobago Police Force in 1960, which proved to be a boon for her sporting aspirations, which were far from over. Besides playing netball for Police, she began to play hockey for them as well. She was invited to attend the trials to select the Trinidad

and Tobago team to attend the World Hockey Conference (forerunner to the World Cup). She did not make the final cut but attending the trials was proof that she was considered amongst the best in the country. The police force also exposed her to the sport of rifle shooting and, with accustomed aplomb, John picked up a rifle with the intention of being the best. She won national titles and was selected as the only female on the Trinidad and Tobago team that competed in Barbados where she won the Small Bore Rifle title.

Cricket was in her blood, and it was perhaps surprising that she did not focus on the sport sooner, though she was very busy excelling at others. John remedied that by returning to the sport that she played as a teenager, playing domestic cricket, and making it onto the Trinidad and Tobago team that played Jamaica in 1967. She continued to play locally and earned selection again when England played Trinidad and Tobago in 1971. In earning those national caps, she and her father George became the first father/daughter combination to represent the nation at cricket. In retirement she remained active in sport, taking on various roles including being part of the LOC (Local Organizing Committee) for the 1979 Netball World Championships.

For her phenomenal sporting exploits, Majorie John was inducted into the Trinidad and Tobago Sports Hall of Fame in 1987.