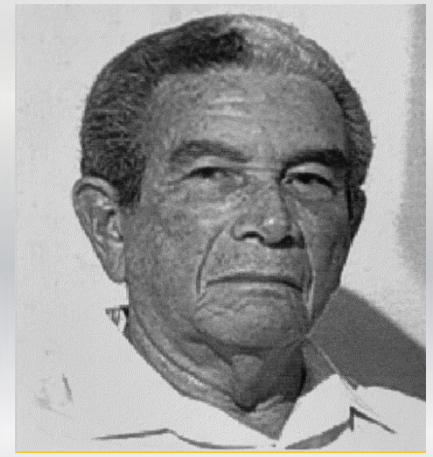
First Citizens Sports Foundation

HALL OF FAME



Mervyn Marquez

Administrator

Inducted in 2008

For most of his life Mervyn Marquez was involved in aquatic sport, either taking part in it, officiating it, or ensuring its growth through astute administration. Quite simply, he loved the water.

Marquez was driven to see aquatic sport reach its full potential in Trinidad and Tobago and the Caribbean and became a founding member of the bodies that govern the sport today.

It was at St. Mary's College, at the age of 14, that his interest was first piqued when he joined the Sea Scouts. With the ethos of challenging himself, he took part in the first cross harbour race held in the country in 1949, from Five Islands to Carenage, and took third place. Together with some of his fellow swimmers, he recognized the need for the sport to fall under formal guidance and became one of the founding members of the Amateur Swimming Association.

Not content with swimming races, Marquez began to take part in water polo and again broke new ground when he took part in Trinidad and Tobago's first official water polo league, playing for Palm Beach Club. The following year he joined the Harlequins Club, where he was made captain. During these formative years, Marquez was busy making the backstroke his own. He became the national champion in that event in 1952 and remained unbeaten, successfully defending the title in 1953 and 54. He was also part of the team to participate in Trinidad and Tobago's first international swim competition in Barbados in 1953, where he swam in the relay. And, just to prove his versatility in all forms of water sport, Marquez became national rowing champion that same year.

His winning ways continued when Harlequins won the national water polo tournaments of 1959 and 1960. Marquez was also busy behind the scenes setting up the West Indies Swimming Federation in 1959 and becoming its President. This action meant that the region could send a water polo team to that year's Pan Am Games in Chicago when they attended those Games as British West Indies.

Three years later, it would lead to Trinidad and Tobago sending a water polo team to the Central American & Caribbean (CAC) Games in Jamaica, with Marquez as Manager/Coach. With his duties gravitating more towards officiating, Marquez became a recognized FINA (swimming's global body) water polo referee and would later serve in an international capacity as a member of FINA's sub-committee for water polo. Together with his expertise in local sport, this position allowed him to bring a strong skillset when he served as Assistant Secretary of the Trinidad and

Tobago Olympic Association (later the TTOC), a position he held until 1970.

Marquez coached water polo at his alma mater St. Mary's from 1965-1972, as well as at St. Benedict College and the University of the West Indies, and in the late 1960s he also coached swimming for the Coast Guard.

Recognizing that there were a plethora of swim meets across the globe for age-related swimmers, he pioneered age group swimming competitions in Trinidad, helped to form the Trinity Masters Club, and duly took part in competitions in Venezuela and Barbados. Never one to pass up an opportunity to compete, in 1994 he took part in the International Masters tournament in Barbados and won the 60–65 age group with 11 medals (6 gold, 5 silver). In 1996, in the Long Course International Masters, he won 6 gold and 3 silver medals in the 65-70 age group.

Mervyn Marquez ensured that competitive water sports became formalized and could then evolve to provide Trinidad and Tobago's swimmers and water polo players with the means to ably compete locally and represent the nation globally. As such, in 2008 he was inducted into the Trinidad and Tobago Sports Hall of Fame.