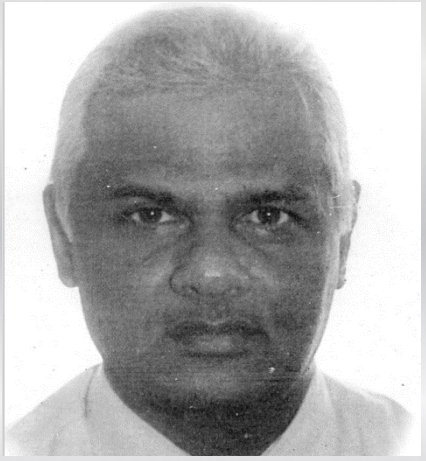
First Citizens Sports Foundation

HALL OF FAME



Bobby Sookram

Football

Inducted in 1995

The St. Benedict's College team of the 1960s that dominated football in south Trinidad was packed with talent ready to take the step up to the senior ranks and perform with the same verve and vigor that yielded success in the Colleges League. Leading the Benedict's front line was 'Bobby' Sookram, a prolific goal scorer who was capable of great positioning in the penalty area, with an ability to find the back of the net with only one or two touches required. To use a popular football term, the tall slightly built Sookram was a 'poacher'.

When he graduated from St Benedict's, many teams were eager to sign him, but Sookram opted for BP Palo Seco in his native south Trinidad, where he immediately made his mark with goals in the Southern Amateur Football League (SAFL) as well as the nationwide FA Cup.

With his profile rising, he was selected for the national team in 1963 for a tour to Suriname but did not play.

A year later, with a newly independent Trinidad and Tobago taking part in its first ever World Cup qualification matches, he returned to Suriname with the squad, scoring the team's only goal.

In November 1964, the Brazilian junior team played a Trinidad and Tobago College Boys team, and though the Trinidad and Tobago team lost 9-2, Sookram was again amongst the scorers.

In 1965, having cemented a spot in the Trinidad and Tobago starting lineup, Sookram was in the team that took part in Jamaica's Independence Football Festival which included English First Division giants Arsenal. He played on the outside right for the match where Trinidad and Tobago took on the Londoners, having one of the best games of his career. With Arsenal scoring two early goals, Sookram was in a determined mood, and five minutes before the halftime whistle he hit a ball on the run, a searing right foot shot that beat the 'keeper. In the second half, he was still very active, this time hitting with his left foot and the shot just skimming the top bar. He would eventually go on to play for Trinidad and Tobago against two more English clubs, Chelsea and Wolves.

The Leagues were split until 1974, but the Port of Spain League was considered the unofficial national league, and Sookram wanted to test himself at the highest level possible. He joined Maple, a team in the middle of a magnificent run of form and victories. When Sookram joined Maple had just won their 4th consecutive title (1960-1963). They would go on to win another three from 1967-1969 with Sookram in the center-forward role. He would end up scoring a remarkable 110 goals for Maple

during his time there, retiring from national team football in 1969 and first-class football in the early 1970s.

For his prolific scoring and contribution to football, Bobby Sookram was inducted into the Trinidad and Tobago Sports Hall of Fame in 1995.