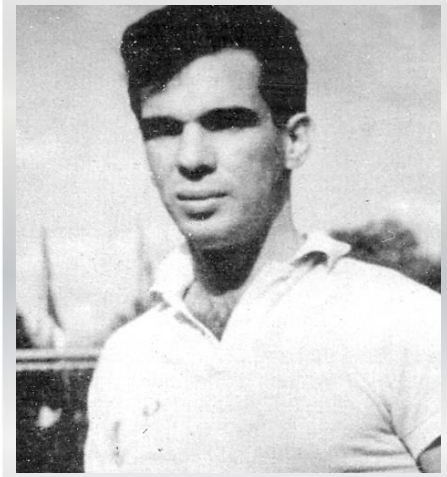
First Citizens Sports Foundation

HALL OF FAME



Micheal Valdez

Lawn Tennis

Inducted in 1987

One half of the local lawn tennis legends, the Valdez brothers, Michael, the younger brother of Peter, was a formidable player in both the Singles format and Doubles. Like his brother, Valdez would create a burgeoning trophy cabinet.

Coming from a sporting family of four children, he followed in Peter's tennis tracks and began winning regularly on the domestic circuit. By the age of 16 he had become a regional champion when he travelled to British Guiana (now Guyana) and won the 1958 Caribbean Boy's Singles title. One year later, Valdez went to Venezuela and won the 1959 Central American Junior Singles title.

Having acquired a taste for regional crowns, he returned to the Central American championship stage and successfully defended his Singles crown while also teaming up with Brian Hackshaw to add the Doubles title.

1961 saw him move up to the senior level with immediate success, winning both the national Doubles titles: the Men's with brother Peter, and the Mixed with Anita De Verteuil. These wins earned him selection for the 1961 Brandon Trophy (the top regional tennis tournament played as a team event) held in Guyana and won by Jamaica. When the tournament was held in Trinidad in 1962, Valdez retained his place in a squad that would go on to lift the trophy.

Further honours in Trinidad and Tobago colours would come his way later that year as he went to the Central American & Caribbean (CAC) Games held in Jamaica, and won bronze in the Mixed Doubles with fellow Hall of Famer Ria Mark. In 1963 Valdez represented Trinidad and Tobago at the Pan Am Games in São Paulo, Brazil, going out in the early rounds to the host's Tomas Koch. He returned to Trinidad and won three domestic club Doubles titles with Peter before gearing up for 1965, which was to be one of his best years. He began by winning the Singles at the Sports & Games Open, before beating his brother for the Lucas Bowl title, and then travelled to Jamaica to help Trinidad and Tobago regain the Brandon Trophy with a tense final score-line of 3-2. His good form continued into 1966, with his first win in the national championship Singles – the benefit of playing on the International Tennis Circuit, which held matches in Trinidad from 1964 to 1966. In that final year, Valdez played against Tony Roche of Australia who would go on to win that year's French Open, losing 6-4, 8-6.

When his brother Peter retired in 1967, Michael formed an equally formidable partnership with Alan Price to dominate the Men's Doubles circuit. Valdez also maintained his dominance in the Mixed Doubles, doing so with a series of different partners, including Sheila Wiggins and

Sue Biscoe. At the highest level – the Davis Cup – Valdez and Price earned a memorable victory over Colombia's Ivan Molina and Jairo Velasco in a five set, four-hour match in 1973. By that year, Valdez had made his mark in the national Singles, winning in 1970, 1971, and 1973, and would win it in 1974.

Valdez retired in 1978 having won every domestic title including eight Queen's Park Oval crowns and seven Lucas Bowl titles, with the magnificent ground strokes that made him a wonderful Doubles player, together with his blossoming play as a Singles player later in his career. He became a renowned coach, setting up the Valdez Tennis Clinic which still exists at the Hilton Tennis Courts, introducing the sport to the next generation.

In 1976 the Lawn Tennis Association of Trinidad & Tobago honoured Michael Valdez for his contribution to lawn tennis, while in 1987 he was inducted into the Trinidad and Tobago Sports Hall of Fame.

National Singles title:	**1966, 1970-71, 1973-74**
National Men's Doubles title:	**1961-1963, 1967-1975**
National Mixed Doubles title:	**1961-1965**
Brandon Trophy:	**1955, 1958, 1960, 1962-63, 1965**
CAC Games:	**1962 Bronze Mixed Doubles**