First Citizens Sports Foundation

HALL OF FAME



Peter Valdez

Lawn Tennis

Inducted in 1987

Together with his brother Michael, this player made the surname 'Valdez' synonymous with Trinidad and Tobago lawn tennis. He played on the hallowed courts of Wimbledon, lifted trophies locally, went on unbeaten runs, and brought home trophies and medals for his country. Peter Valdez's career epitomized consistency.

Emerging from a sporting family, Valdez began playing – as the best players do – at a very early age, showing the promise that would take him to numerous junior titles and convincing his coaches and family to send him to Britain in 1956. The previous year, aged 15, he represented the national senior team on its tour to Jamaica, contributing to Trinidad and Tobago's win. In England, he took part in both junior and senior tournaments, winning the Sussex Senior Tournament in Bognor Regis and earning himself a place at the Wimbledon Boy's Singles Championship. There, he played against Jan Josefsson of Sweden in the first round, losing 7-5,7-5.

Valdez returned to Trinidad later in 1956 to win his first national title, the Men's Doubles, with Lindy Price. The talented pair would hold the title for three more years, with Valdez also securing the Singles title in 1958. As champion he travelled to Buenos Aires with Jamaican Peter Phillips to represent the British West Indies at the 1958 Davis Cup, where they lost to the hosts.

Already established as a regular on the Brandon Trophy (the top regional tennis tournament played as a team event) squad, Valdez returned to Jamaica in 1960 as captain, played unbeaten and helped regain the trophy for Trinidad and Tobago. Also in 1960, Trinidad was selected to host the Davis Cup match between British West Indies and New Zealand, where Valdez gave a good account of local tennis with 6-8, 7-5, 6-0, 2-6, 3-6 match figures.

He continued to dominate the national Singles and Doubles titles, winning the former in 1961 and 1962, and teaming up with younger brother Michael to take the 1961 and '62 Doubles crowns. With his nation on the cusp of independence, Valdez went to the Central American & Caribbean (CAC) Games and won bronze in the Men's Doubles with Alan Price. There were further wins in the Brandon Trophy in 1962, 1963 and 1965, with the latter singled out by Valdez as his favourite. The overall score was tied 2-2, with Valdez playing Jamaican Richard Russell in Jamaica. Russell had just come off a six-month training stint with an Australian coach and was confident in front his home crowd. Valdez threw off Russell's game by adopting serve and volley tactics to win the match and secure Trinidad and Tobago's lifting of the trophy.

Valdez continued for another two years then retired from competitive tennis having taken an eighth national Singles crown, though he continued in the sport as a sought-after coach. His career record is impressive, having represented Trinidad and Tobago on 13 occasions at the Brandon Trophy. In the Davis Cup he played 11 times, with Singles victories over Boro Jovanovic of Yugoslavia (1962), Francisco Guzman of Ecuador (1963), and a Doubles win over Ecuador while teamed with Alan Price. His achievements were honoured by the Lawn Tennis Association of Trinidad & Tobago in 1976 and by the Sports Foundation in 1987 when Peter Valdez was inducted into the Trinidad and Tobago Sports Hall of Fame.

National Singles title:	**1958-59, 1961-65, 1967**
National Men's Doubles title:	**1956-1959, 1961-1963**
Brandon Trophy:	**1955, 1958, 1960, 1962-63, 1965**
CAC Games:	**1962 Bronze Men's Doubles**