

The Story of Football in Trinidad and Tobago 1893 -2000

Chapter One

Kick-off

THE Trinidad News and San Fernando Gazette of June 6, 1893, was not at all happy with what was happening in the Trinidad society during the year.

The paper reported that there was growing corruption among the youth in the colony which was the direct result of the invasion of Government offices as well as stores and estates by strangers from the United Kingdom.

In its editorial entitled 'Agricultural pursuits,' the paper noted: "What with the invasion of government offices, of stores and sugar estates by strangers from the mother country, more particularly from Scotland, and what with the growing corruption of our young men by frequentation of places of evil, gambling halls, dignity balls etc, our youth of the better classes are in a fair way of becoming a nuisance to themselves and their country, instead of, as in other countries, forming the main factor of the moral, intellectual and physical wealth of their native land."

The paper continued: "It would be knocking our heads against a stone wall to find fault with Scotsmen who now have the dry goods trade and the management of sugar estates mostly in their hands because they send their poor relatives or friends from Scotland to fill situations of emoluments under them. We believe our creole youth to be brighter than the young strangers who are imported to occupy posts which of right, should be theirs and with the knowledge they have of people, their ways, their language and their wants, they would certainly be more useful. But is a fact that in the majority of cases, they are distanced by strangers and facts are stubborn things."

It was in this atmosphere that the Scottish born Thomas Boyd, arrived in Trinidad in the early 1890s after leaving his home in Glasgow, Scotland.

Boyd was a member of the Garfield Football Club's Junior Eleven, and would have been one of the 'strangers' to which the Gazette referred as coming to Trinidad as part of the Scottish invasion that was meant

to take control of the dry goods trade and the management of sugar estates in the country.

Later as he became more involved in public life in Trinidad, he would relate that one of his boyhood dreams was to represent Scotland in football, a thought which disappeared when he embarked on his trip to the colony.

But he loved the sport which had provided many happy moments for him in his teenage days at Garfield.

Boyd settled in Port of Spain and was soon attracted to the Savannah, the wide expanse of land on which cows grazed abundantly throughout the year.

He reasoned that the vastness of the savannah provided enough space to play some ball.

But he had a problem.

There was not a single football in the colony.

And he was further doubtful that even if he somehow managed to find one, there would be enough people interested in joining him for a game.

But his love for the sport won out.

The Sports Weekly - one of the colony's first sporting chronicles reported on November 6, 1927, that Boyd wrote to his family at home and requested that they send him a football along with two bladders and an inflator.

For weeks later, the Scotsman waited anxiously on the equipment and when they arrived, Boyd notified all his countrymen and invited them to the savannah for a game one Saturday evening. Sports Weekly (November 6, 1927) reported:

‘Thirty persons turned up and sides were formed. Jackets and caps were used as goalposts and the game started. After 15 minutes, most of the players were ‘hors de combat,’ and declared that the climatic conditions were against the winter sport. The remainder continued to play.’

The group which continued playing numbered about 12 persons and included one person who played with Boyd at Garfield.

From that evening, the group crossed over to the Savannah, just opposite the Princes Building and east of the Grand Stand, to play the sport and engage themselves in what essentially was a social activity.

Half of the time was spent on exchanging news of developments back ‘home.’

As the exodus from Great Britain increased and more expatriates came to Trinidad, the number of persons visiting the Savannah ‘to kick ball,’ also increased.

Soon other members of the British community joined in. Among them were members of the Queen’s Park Cricket Club.

Queen’s Park, which was the first official club formed in the colony.

The club was formed in 1891 and catered strictly for British officials who held the most important posts in the colony. Some of the wealthy English creoles, that is Trinidadians born of English parents or Englishmen who had made Trinidad their home and who were creole by adoption, were also allowed membership.

In fact, the club’s presidents, up to 1962 when Trinidad and Tobago gained Independence, were always the governors of the colony, headed in 1891 by Sir F. Napier Broome (KCMG).

As could be expected of an English oriented club, Queen’s Park religiously promoted cricket. But a few of its members also took part in the winter pastime when the cricket season was over.

And the club played against Boyd’s group as part of the first football matches in the colony.

On Boyd’s initiative, the British Rovers Club, was formed. This club was the pioneer club for the football in the colony.

Not surprisingly, Boyd was made captain.

The matches between British Rovers and the ‘Parkites’ were always competitive and well attended.

Sometimes when ships visited from the mother country, the clubs selected a combined side to play against the sailors.

But even in this atmosphere, the British Rovers Club died.

Football was not enough to keep the membership alive. And during the off (cricket) season, there was nothing to keep the membership together, since there was no clubhouse and Rovers met only at the savannah.

Football may have been the activity which brought their members together but there was not much more socially.

It was a period in which affiliations were based on nationality, religion, social status and the colour of one’s skin.

As Rovers faded, Boyd joined his Scottish colleagues to form the Clydesdale Cricket Club which was launched in 1897, six years after Queen’s Park.

Clydesdale promoted cricket as its major attraction but Boyd was determined to keep football alive and encouraged members to retain a football section.

Several Clydesdale ‘cricketers’ joined their countrymen to ‘kick ball,’ once the cricket season ended. And the Scottish club soon gained a reputation as ‘the’ football club in the colony.

Apart from friendly matches against QPCC and other make up teams, Clydesdale also laid the foundation for inter-territorial football, by touring Demerara in 1905.

Prior to that though, cracks in the club's social armory began to appear. Some members who were not comfortable left and in 1904, they formed Casuals.

Casuals catered for the members of the poor white community who had emigrated from other West Indian islands and did not fulfill the requirements of being Scottish, English or Roman Catholics. The club welcomed those who could not fit into the upper class mould, except coloured persons and many Protestants joined them.

The Catholics had already grouped themselves into Shamrock which was formed in 1897, the same year as Clydesdale.

Shamrock was started by Father McDonald, an Irish priest who was sent to St Mary's College, one of the founding educational institutions in the country which opened in 1863 to service the Roman Catholic community.

The priest named Shamrock after a flower in Ireland and designed it in such a way that the members of his community would stay together.

Only members of their fraternity and later their children who attended St Mary's College, were allowed membership.

Despite the obvious religious, ethnic and class barriers, the clubs Clydesdale, Shamrock, Casuals and Queen's Park, in addition to the Local Forces, the law enforcement arm of the colony and the two colleges, St Mary's and Queen's Royal College, played the game unofficially and in relative harmony in the early years of the 19th century.

Clydesdale, under Boyd's influence, was the driving force and it was not surprising when the club made its first overseas football tour to Demerara in 1905.

In spite of this, however, it was Casuals which took the initiative and called a meeting to discuss the formation of a football association in 1908.

The meeting, on June 16, was the first 'official' session although there were other 'unofficial' meetings long before.

Shamrock's John Scheult chaired the session which was attended by representatives from all the clubs.

The historic meeting included:

Casuals: J. Taylor (pres), H.L. Knaggs, G. Owen, F. Brierly, G. Brierly, John Rochford.

Shamrock: Scheult, Frank Leotaud.

Clydesdale: W. Adam and R Johnston.

St Mary's: A. Hamel-smith.

QRC: W.T Harragin

Local Forces: A.T. Coles.

The meeting discovered that all clubs were willing to field a team for a league tournament during the 1908 season, provided the Association was formed.

A second meeting on July 27 decided to form the league and a draft constitution, based on the British Guiana rules, was organised and members of the first council were elected.

Not unexpectedly, Boyd was the only person nominated for president and he was elected unopposed.

His nomination, ironically came from a Casuals member, John Rochford and was seconded by Inspector R. Coles of the Local Forces.

Rochford was made secretary.

Other council members elected were: C. S. Archibald (Vice president), J.E. Scheult (Treasurer). Hamel Smith and Harragin (QRC) along with Adam (Clydesdale) and Sergt-Inst R. Coles (Local Forces) were elected floor members.

A final meeting on Monday August 8, 1908, finally approved the body as the Trinidad Amateur Football Association (TAFA) and gave it two main functions. Firstly, it was responsible for organising football in the colony, although in the initial stages this was confined to north, and secondly for the selection of teams.

The first official match was played between Clydesdale and Casuals on September 19, 1908 and almost every member of the football community, except the spectators, were white. In addition, apart from the students, the council members and players on the respective teams either worked in the sugar and nascent oil industries, the military, the civil service and the clergy and in the commercial and financial sectors.

The match was played in the Savannah which was to become the sport's home for several years. The Savannah or Peshier's Pasture or Paradise Estate, as it was originally known, was a place where cows actually grazed and roamed freely. And during the first season, several matches were interrupted as the animals made their way across the playing area.

In 1825, the Board of the Cabildo transferred the estate to the Colonial Government and collected \$10,363 - a profit of \$4,363 over the \$6,000 they had paid to the heirs of Madame Peshier when they purchased the land in 1817 as a recreation ground for the citizens of Port of Spain.

During football's first official season, a total of 194 players registered, an average of just over 30 players per team for the six clubs: Clydesdale, Casuals, Shamrock, Local Forces, QRC and St Mary's.

The season started in September to avoid clashing with cricket which began in January. Clydesdale, playing in black and white and Casuals, in maroon and white, played what was described in the Sporting Chronicle as a scintillating opening match which the 'Maroons,' as Casual later came to be known, lost 1-2 after 60 minutes.

Their team was E.M. Legge, F.N. Brierly, D.M. Anderson, N. Farfan, R. Johnston, Rev. G. Brierly, W.E. Smith, J. R. Rochford (capt), G. Owen, W.H. Eccles while Clydesdale comprised J.B.L. Todd, J. Pendrich (capt), J. Simpson, C. Thavenot, J. Hoadley, W. Adam, G. Logie, H. Bullock, W.H. Knox, D. Taylor and W. Stewart.

Officials were F. Leotaud, the referee and T. Jackson and A.B. Knowles, two linesmen who had all volunteered their services for the season.

The curious but packed Savannah crowd saw 'the maroons' take an early lead when Eccles scored. But Pendrich, the Clydesdale captain, moved from his position at centre half to centre forward and equalised before his team eventually got the winner through Knox, 15 minutes from time.

The Sporting Chronicle of Sunday September 20, reported:

'The first match in the league competition was held yesterday and nothing but the most pleasant recollections are left of the historic opening day. They played well, these Casuals. They have been defeated but their reception was so enthusiastic, so cordial that they might have achieved a glorious victory instead of disaster.

The game was interesting, aye, even thrilling and the opening moments promised well. Weather conditions were ideal and as far as memory helps us, never in the annals of this winter past time have such unbounded enthusiasm and keenness been evinced as was noticeable among spectators and players. Fully half an hour before play began, a very large gathering was seen around the ropes and by 5 p.m. - the opening hour - the attendance was a reward. The fairer sex were not to be denied. They filled the gallery on the north and south boundaries.'

In other first round matches, the Local Forces hammered the St Mary's 5-0 while the other school team Queen's Royal College also suffered a big 7-0 loss to Shamrock.

The teams for these games were: Local Forces: A.E. Harragin, H. Fowler, P. Pierre, J. McLleland, P. Schooner, B. Innis, W. Howard, C. Green, T.W. Coles, S. Daly, A. Dos Santos.

St Mary's: W. Andre, L. Wharton, M. Fraser, V. Scott, L. De Verteuil, N. Scheult, R. Quesnel, G. Harvey, H. Fuller, A. Hamel Smith, H. Rousseau.

Shamrock: N. Betancourt, Ben Coombs, A. Maingot, D. Sorzano, J. E. Scheult, A. Pereira, V. Maingot, C. Cummings, N. Hart, T. Penclose, N. Taitt.

QRC: P. Wilson, T. Sealey, W.T. Harragin, W. Dickson, F. Fahey, K. Harragin, G. Harragin, P. Eckel, C. Rooks, L. Sorzano, G. Rochford.

The season turned out to be very competitive.

Two rounds of matches were played, with a final game between the top two teams, deciding the champions.

When it was all over, the 'founders,' Clydesdale, proved too much and won the league with 19 out of a possible 22 points beating Casuals in the final.

The maroons finished one point behind.

The season's progress is noted in the Sporting Opinion of October 11, 1908.

'Among all the games dear to the heart of every sportsman, football undoubtedly occupied a preminent position. Yet many people are inclined to assign the supremacy of sport to cricket and if we were to ask ourselves why that should be so, the answer is very simple. Cricket is a game for the many from the schoolboy to the man who has already passed his prime while football is a game for the few - the young and the strong and vigorous. Was there ever a footballer who did not glory in the hacks and bruises which are certain to result from a hard fought game? Was there ever one who was not enthusiastic about the sport?

In football there is always the opportunity of showing pluck to face any odds and any danger to win. Even if victory be remotely possible, this hardy self confidence that never ever knows defeat and a cool disregard of danger are undoubtedly quite as important qualities in a good footballer as strength and subtleness of limb and speed and agility and the person who is a lover of this game is sure to develop these qualities and to retain them all throughout his career. Some argue against football as a dangerous and brutalizing sport. This we cannot to a certain extent deny because we know that as in all other games, an element of danger is certainly attached to football. Accidents occasionally happen as in all other sport and as far as brutalizing, the game has been known to develop many noble qualities and it demands fairness and unselfishness in every true exponent. The success of his side should be a paramount consideration with every player and with this end in view he must be ever ready to give up chances of distinction and must even be prepared to see praises showered on another ever though it may be a sacrifice on his part.

It is very essential that players should work well together. Football has never taken on in TT in the true sense of the word and its season is most irregular. For the last couple of years, there has been only one club in the colony devoted to this beautiful game but we are glad to see that today there are no less than six clubs each taking an active part in a league competition which has been inaugurated for the sole purposes of fostering football in the colony which, judging from the lively interest displayed by both the players and spectators or sporting community, is surely rivaling cricket for supremacy.

Local critics are of the opinion and rightly so, that since the ingression of the league competition, that has come to stay and prospects are certainly bright when no less than six clubs have suddenly come to life - the majority of which are comprised of young players with whom the mental and other sterling qualities essential to good footballers are strikingly conspicuous.

Inter colonial football has done some to develop the standard of football in this colony and it is to be hoped that competition between Demerara and Trinidad and Tobago inaugurated within the last three or four years will be continued."

Clydesdale collected a Shield and each player was awarded a badge to commemorate the success. The Shield was funded through a public subscription advertised in the newspaper which raised \$217.

It was because the subscription was so successful that badges for the individual members of the winning team were also purchased.

The awards were presented to the champions at a dinner at the Queen's Park Hotel, Queen's Park south by His Excellency S.W. Knaggs, CMS on December 7, 1908.

The function took the form of a concert with a virtual who's who of the colony in attendance.

The top sopranos and pianists in the colony provided entertainment.

Boyd, in his presidential speech recapped how the Association came into existence and promised to do all in his power to continue the development of the winter sport.

Remarkably, the Association declared a profit of \$26 in its first season, citing subscriptions and gate receipts, as the main contributors.

Its income was \$253 while \$227 took care of the season's expenditure.

The first season ended:

Teams P-W-D-L-F-A-Pts

Clydesdale 11-9-1-1-23-4-19

Casuals 11-8-2-1-39-8-18

Local Forces 10-4-5-1-19-13

Shamrock 10-4-5-1-15-20-13

QRC 10-2-7-1-10-13-11

St Marys 10-1-8-1-6-29-10

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Chapter Two

Getting set for war

For most of the period leading up to the First World War in 1915, the social climate remained the same.

Efforts were made to introduce teams which did not necessarily have the same standing as Shamrock or Clydesdale.

One of these teams was Majestic, a representative team of the masses who made their debut as the seventh team in the competition in 1909.

Sports Weekly November 6, 1927 described Majestic as the first coloured team in the league and declared that whenever they played they 'always provided amusement,' for the spectators.

Lacking the finances and other resources to be a major challenger in the competition because of the position of their members on the social ladder, Majestic failed to win or even draw one of their matches.

In fact, they disintegrated into a disorganised bunch long before the season ended, conceding 55 goals while there were wild celebrations on the two occasions on which they found the net in their 12-match programme.

For the other teams, though, a second competition was introduced. This was the Bonanza Cup, a knock out series among the four top teams of the previous season.

The trophy was donated by John Smith, president of Casuals, who also owned the Bonanza Sports Store which supplied most of the colony's sporting gear.

Smith's team justified their president's faith in the sport, defeating Local Forces 2-0 in the finals to become the first holders of the Cup.

The result and performance were indications of things to come as Casuals completely dominated the year, winning the Shield and playing unbeaten in 12 matches to record a maximum 24 points. So dominant were the maroons that Shamrock, their nearest rivals, were eight points behind.

Despite the outstanding performances by the maroons, the league's top scorer was Mikey Cipriani of the Local Forces who netted 15 of the 27 goals which his team scored.

Casual's leading scorer was Neville Grell who scored 13 goals.

Standings

Casuals 12-12-0-0-49-5-24

Shamrock 12-7-3-2-31-20-16

Local Forces 12-6-3-3-27-13-15

Clydesdale 12-5-5-2-23-24-12

St Mary's 12-4-4-4-15-18-12

QRC 12-2-7-3-14-26-7

Majestic 12-0-12-0-2-55-0

The season also witnessed the first intercollegiate competition under the TAFE with St Mary's beating QRC 1-0 and 2-0 to win a two-match series for the first time.

After two seasons, the TAFE was ready for their first overseas guest - the Georgetown Football Club (GFC) which paid a visit in 1910.

It was not the GFC's first visit to the colony but it was the first time, they were visiting under the TAFE banner.

They played four matches, including two against an All Trinidad team. The matches attracted good spectator support and the visitors lost 3-1 in the first game but won the return 1-0.

They also beat the 1908 champions Clydesdale 3-1 and title-holders Casuals 6-4.

Things were also changing rapidly in south where the Southern Amateur Football Association (SAFA) was formed.

This league catered for the expanding group of expatriates who were resident in south and were exploring for oil.

The absence of transportation made it impossible for teams from south to play in the TAFAs league competition. But there was one team, in particular, Southern, who immediately began to warm the hearts of the southerners with their attractive style of play, so much so that followers were of the view that they could hold their own against the best from the TAFAs.

Southern, though, would have to wait two seasons before getting a chance to prove their followers correct.

Back in north, despite their pathetic display of the season earlier, Majestic was surprisingly allowed to remain in the TAFAs.

But they were hardly different from the past year although they won one game against Nemesis, another debutante, whose presence meant that there were now eight teams taking part in the competition.

Clydesdale surprised Shamrock 2-0 to win the Bonanza Cup while another knock out trophy, the Best Dark Virginia Cup (BDV), was added to the 'winter season.' Local Forces became the first holders, beating off the challenges of the other three top teams from the previous year.

The League was very competitive but Shamrock turned the tables on Casuals to win it for the first time.

The two teams enjoyed a tremendous battle for the top prize but the Irishmen finally took honours in the last match of the season which they won to end with 25 points, just one ahead of Casuals.

Their 14 matches had brought them 11 victories and three drawn games which was a slightly better record than Casuals who lost just one game but drew two.

Standings

Shamrock 14 -11-0-3-57-6-25

Casuals 14-11-1-2-76-9-24

Clydesdale 14-9-4-1-37-15-19

Local Forces 14-7-5-2-28-19-16

QRC 14-4-8-2-17-46-10

St Mary's 14-4-8-2-13-43-10

Nemesis 14-3-11-0-15-43-6

Majestic 14-1-13-0-6-6-7-2

By 1911, three seasons had passed and the sport appeared to be thriving.

The local FA gained affiliation to the English Football Association and there were bumper gates at important matches, leading to an increase in rented chairs at the match venues.

The first league was reduced to just the top four teams while a second league was introduced to cater for the other teams.

The influx of new teams in the second league caused wide scale debate as to the composition of the Football Council.

Teams in the second league automatically gained representation on the Council, doubling the number of members.

The teams in the new league comprised a second team from all clubs in the first league - Casuals, Shamrock, Clydesdale and Local Forces in addition to St Marys, QRC, Majestic, Unity, Yorkshire, Thistle and Everton.

The feeling was that the quartet in the first league was the best four teams in the colony and would ensure a more competitive league.

Many felt that the Council should have been limited to representation from the top four teams and the colleges but a motion to this effect was rejected and all teams were given the right to have a member on the council.

The Referees Association also argued for representation and was successful and Mr E. Pitts, was unanimously appointed to the expanded council.

The many matches called for more officials and the Association called on clubs to provide their own linesman at all games.

With interest rapidly increasing, chairs were introduced for spectators in the season's opening League match between Local Forces and Casuals. They cost six cents per person and was an immediate success with all being occupied.

Mr RV Stanley, who had taken over as honorary secretary of the Council also provided special seats for the press, showing how important this body was to the Association.

With coverage being expanded and the entertainment good, the crowds increased and the council had to place ropes around the playing field to keep spectators off the pitch.

Even so, this failed to stop the first unsavory incident of the TAFE.

During the season, one spectator, Joshua Hoyte, was charged under the Queen's Park regulation for using abusive language to Joseph Scheult, treasurer of Association.

Hoyte's intervention soon led to a law being introduced to stop fans from transgressing onto the field or interrupting games.

When the season started, the Sporting Chronicle of Sunday September 10, noted:

'When the dull boom of the foot boot met the football yesterday in the Local Forces versus Clydesdale match, there were many hearts that felt glad that we had King Footer with us once more who has taken such a hold upon the feelings of the Trinidad public. When a few who were present yesterday, more than four years ago, made their praiseworthy effort to make football a regular fixture upon us, instead of a desultory pastime limited to a few, little did we think that it would have taken such a firm hold and that football will rise to such enthusiasm, not only among the players themselves but throughout the whole of the colony's sporting public.

That things are as they are is due to the continuance of the efforts of those responsible for the origins of the league and towards them, Trinidad feels a great sentiment of gratitude.

While wishing the season of 1911-12 every success and freedom from such few disagreeable incidents that have been its only bad association in the past, we would like to speak of something which we believe unless closely gone into and considered, will perhaps mar in one season what has taken a year to perfect.

"When a few seasons ago, Mr R. Low of QRC gave notice of a motion to the annual general meeting of the remodeling of the general council in terms of limiting its number to about six, we felt so sure of the wisdom of this that we did not even comment on it. Little did we think that any sane person would have been opposed to such a measure.

But this is just what happened, and Mr Low who appears not to have his range of vision limited to the present had the misfortune to see his motion lost. The disastrous consequence of such a narrow view could not have been apparent to those who proposed the measure at the time.

Mr Low saw that at some time or the other, the council would be overcrowded but little did he think that the consummation of what was only a dread would have come about so speedily. With the formation of the second league - a very good idea, we submit, the council has suddenly felt itself augmented to 14 including the office bearers. Where matters will end, we know not and we see in the near future the forming of many other second class clubs.

"There surely is no need for such a large council to control the destiny of Mr Trinidad football and the impossibility of the situation ought to suggest itself more fully when it is considered that one half of the council are representative of second class teams who from positions around the touch line now find themselves elevated to controlling authority in areas about which they know nothing. Just supposing an important football question came up for discussion, it will be amusing to listen to the proceedings.

Mr Archibald in his strong opposition argued solely along the principle of representation, its good results and so on and so forth. But would not, if Mr Low's idea had been carried out,

representation have been there all the same as the members would have been elected by the clubs forming the Association.

We see trouble at no distant date and hope that all those who have the interest of Trinidad football at heart, will rally together once more and do something about an evil which is courting disaster. We beg to congratulate the TAFE on the very commendable move in charging for the use of the chairs around the touch line at the matches. The price charged is only six cents and we sure that no one would grudge this humble sum as it must be remembered that the proceeds would be utilised in furthering the interest of football. We know that there would be some grumbling but we remind people that it would be unfair to expect clubs to provide chairs at their own expense. It is a Trinidad feeling that no one wants to pay to see sport. And we are glad to see the TAFE educating people to the necessity of this. At the recent game, every available chair was taken though there were the usual remarks which followed. During the week the Association purchased 300 chairs for \$170 and we see no reason why the proceeds from the season's matches should not enable the chairs to pay for themselves and afterwards to become a source of income for the TAFE.'

The opening match took on a difference from previous years.

Instead of the league teams competing, the TAFE put on a game comprising players who were born overseas against a Colony side. The Foreigners won 3-1.

By the time the season ended, Shamrock retained their title, beating Local Forces 3-1 in their final game.

Had they lost, Casuals would have won the Shield in what was a keenly contested season, the winners just one point ahead at the end of the competition.

Standings

Shamrock 6-4-1-1-18-8-9

Casuals 6-3-1-2-14-7-8

Local Forces 6-2-3-1-10-11-5

Clydesdale 6-0-4-2-4-20-2

A foreign coach was introduced to the country during the season. However, Tommy Worth, representatives of the donors of the BDV Cup was brought from the United Kingdom to train and coach Shamrock.

Training and coaching which was universal in Great Britain up to that time, was not a part of the local scene.

The Association announced, however, that it would monitor Worth's work with a view of being extended to a wider group.

On December 3, in front of some 4,000 spectators, Casuals, winners of the Bonanza Cup in 1908 and 1910 beat Local Forces 3-0 to become permanent holders of the trophy. Smith's trophy was for the first team to win it on three occasions.

In the BDV Cup final, Casuals beat Shamrock 3-2 to win yet another trophy and followed up with the Wilson Cup in which they defeated Shamrock 3-0.

In the Second League, St Mary's played unbeaten in their division and went on to show their superiority in this competition by beating Majestic 2-0 in the play-off.

But it was the next season which was to emphasize the extent to which football had spread in the colony.

Hundreds of the fans traveled from south to witness Local Forces defeat Casuals 3-0 in the season's final match.

After all, football had grown and was being hailed as entertainment value for money throughout the colony.

But the five shillings which southerners paid to travel from south to Port of Spain on the steamer in 1912, had very little to do with the teams in north.

Instead it was a team, aptly named Southern or 'The Froghoppers' as some fans christened them because of their style of play who captured the imagination of the people filling the steamers and rolling into Port of Spain

On November 9, 1912, Southern came to town for the first time to play against the Local Forces in Bonanza Cup.

The Cup was won outright by Casuals the previous year but was replaced by the owners.

The largest ever gathering of fans at the Savannah had a most thrilling evening as the visitors played exciting, attacking football to beat the north team 2-0.

A few days later, southern fans would again fill the steamer to support their team against Casuals. Southern's success caused every chair to be completely sold out as the financial bags of the Association began to bulge.

Once again, Southern did not disappoint, beating Casuals 2-1 in a highly charged game in which they enjoyed much more support than the northern team who were playing at home in the Savannah.

As if to show that their performances were no fluke, Southern added the BDV Cup to their cabinet by beating Casuals 3-0 to end their first season 'in town' in style.

The maroons, though, proved to be the top team in the league, winning the Shield.

Their captain Frank Brierly, the nippy centre forward, who was one of the first players suspended by the TAFSA for indiscipline, had returned, and guided them to the title.

It was at this point that the north/south rivalry was introduced as the Association staged a game between the two zones in an effort to raise funds for charity.

The rivalry brought out fans in their thousands with over 4,000 spectators paying to witness the match played on December 14, 1912 on Clydesdale ground.

South, with a heavy presence of the members of the 'Froghoppers' won an exciting game 4-0 but the score hardly reflected the competitive nature of the game.

Subsequently proceeds from the battle were donated to the St Vincent de Paul Society and the Daily Meal Organisation.

A number of other charitable matches were also staged, showing up the TAFSA as an organisation that was playing its part in the uplifting of the society.

The first saw a team of the local 'foreigners' losing 0-1 to a Colony side while the second involved the foreign Scottish players against their own kind who were born in the colony.

During the season, a record 222 players registered in the TAFSA.

Apart from Southern, one other team from south took part in the TAFSA competitions. That team was San Fernando Football Club but they failed to win one match.

But Southern's presence in the north had done more than enough to enhance the coffers of the TAFSA who boasted that it was in a healthy financial position following the season.

The major reason may have been the rivalry created by Southern. But the Association had also done its homework, roping off the field and introducing more chairs for spectators. This had increased from just under 400 to 500 during the year.

A TAFSA report revealed that profits had increased from \$387 the previous season to \$642, an improvement of over 60 percent.

To show its appreciation to Southern, the Association refunded all their travelling expenses.

It was a generous gesture but one which they would have to repeat the following year as the 'Froghoppers,' again dominated.

They won the BDV and Bonanza Cups with a packed Queen's Park Savannah crowd getting 2-1 scorelines against Casuals on both occasions.

The maroons had some consolation, being the best of north.

They secured the League Shield, with nine wins from 12 matches although they scored only 14 goals.

Local Forces were second.

But Southern's rise to prominence soon started to affect the TAFSA's efforts to expand its horizons.

The Second League which was intended to broaden the player base, showed signs of falling apart.

Both spectator and player interest faded as matches were played with less than full teams. In one case only 15 players took the field.

The College team, St Mary's was the exception and played unbeaten. They defeated Casuals Two 3-0 in the play-off for the trophy.

There was also an increase in the number of Charity matches to raise funds for worthy causes. North beat South 2-0 to register the first lien on the Hugh McLelland Cup, while a 'home' team won over a Colony XI 1-0 and the locally born Scotsmen went under 1-2 to their parents. These games netted the tidy sum of \$73.92 which was divided between the Daily Meal, St Vincent de Paul Society and Samates de Jesus.

Again the Association boasted of a healthy financial position with the use of its chairs earning \$643, an improvement of \$253 from the previous season.

Ground patronage also improved.

The Association collected \$254 compared to \$111 and Southern were refunded \$55 in travelling expenses.

The Council, elated at the interest from spectators, purchased another 100 chairs.

The Georgetown Football Club also invited Trinidad and Tobago to be part of a tripartite arrangement for an English team to visit Barbados, Guyana and Trinidad for a triangular series. But the Association was of the view that the TAFE was in no financial position to entertain the visitors.

They agreed to improve West Indian football and raise funds for an enclosed ground before considering such an invitation.

However, the TAFE proposed an annual inter colonial tournament between Barbados, British Guiana and Trinidad but there were mixed responses.

The local secretary, Mr Stanley did not want to play against Barbados since he claimed their football was poor.

The meeting shared the view that in spite of Mr Stanley's opinion, an inter colonial tournament should be pursued as it could only help to improve the game.

Boyd, who was replaced as president for the 1912 season, called on the TAFE to share gate receipts with the clubs.

He contended that the money should be divided on a pro rata basis according to the number of matches played.

He said considerable sums of money were being taken from matches and should be used to improve club houses and other facilities.

But this motion was defeated since it was felt that the TAFE needed the funds to organise its games and improve its position generally before making such a commitment.

But there was agreement for the first time for \$50 honorariums for both the secretary Archie Collens and treasurer Scheult, both of whom it was felt were going beyond the call of duty in promoting the game.

By 1914, the league had grown to eleven teams but the TAFE had also given recognition to the SFA as an affiliate.

A new team, Planters Club, made up of employees on the estates and one which had shown tremendous potential, was registered.

But like Majestic, Planters suffered from financial and resource problems and became an early casualty.

Many who saw them practice thought they had a chance of doing well in the competition.

Casuals won both the League and the Bonanza Cup. They ended with 14 out of a possible 16 points, winning six games and drawing two while Clydesdale (9 pts), Shamrock (8) and Local Forces (7) also completed the tournament.

In the Bonanza Cup, it took two replays and 20 minutes of extra time for them to beat Shamrock 2-1.

The Irishmen were also on the losing end in the BDV to Southern.

Later they gave a dinner in appreciation of Southern and what they had achieved in the limited time they were involved in the sport.

In the second League, Unity unseated St Mary's 3-1 to register their first lien on the trophy.

The Southern Amateur Football Association was given recognition by the TAFE.

The Council also voted to limit delegates to representatives of the first class clubs and the Rev Fr O Brian, an educator with a great interest in developing the sport at the level of the school, was made an honorary member.

The TAFE also purchased three stop watches from the United Kingdom for its referees.

The timing, it would appear was not quite right as the referees almost did not get to use them for the 1915 season which opened grimly because of the advent of war.

Some felt the fixtures should be abandoned. However the Army Council and the Governor and Military Council felt that it should continue so as to curb the anxiety among the population.

Clydesdale won an abbreviated league with 10 points from a possible 12.

The Local Forces were unlucky because several of their players were unable to play because of duties.

Casuals beat Shamrock 3-1 to grab the Bonanza Cup while Southern edged Clydesdale 1-0 to retain the BDV Cup.

In the Wilson Cup. QRC who were making a reentry into the TFA, beat Shamrock 4-0 but none of them would collect their trophies as the war forced a cancellation of the formal presentation of trophies.

The name A. Ernie Hinds was also heard for the first time. Hinds would go on to serve the Association as secretary for 26 consecutive years. He was introduced to assist Collens, the treasurer of seven years. Collens was forced to resign when he was called by government for special work resulting from the war.

During the war years, competition was restricted.

The traditional League Shield gave way to a competition for the Allied Cup in 1916 when only five teams took part.

One of them was Queen's Park, whose football memberships was made up of several players from Casuals and the Local Forces, who had not entered the competition.

Queen's Park won the Cup, playing unbeaten in eight matches.

For years, there was a lot of debate as to why the Parkites did not field a football team and it remained a mystery but their arrival in 1916 in the middle of the war, was something of a relief for the TAFE.

There was no Allied Cup for them to win in 1917 but the BDV Cup was contested on a league system while the Bonanza Cup and a trophy donated by Clydesdale were also at stake.

The Royal Navy, the Second Battalion and Maple, a club that was destined to become a legend in the country's football, were the new teams registered.

While the Navy and Battalion team had little impact, Maple won both the Bonanza and Clydesdale Cups. Queen's Park took the BDV but it was Maple who created the most talk during the season.

By the time the war was over in 1918, Maple, later to be coined 'The Government,' would be well on the way to becoming a historic name in the football annals.

The Story of Football in Trinidad and Tobago 1893 - 2000

Chapter Three

World War One - The New Wave

World War 1 created a hiatus in Trinidad as many whites left the colony to serve in the British Army.

The exodus of such a vast number of expatriates and members of the elite opting to fight in the War, created a great demand for civil servants and industrial workers who possessed a certain level of education.

They were needed to fill the vacant posts in these areas.

Such a situation provided for an ascendancy in the social status of mixed and black workers who obtained these jobs.

As the white stronghold in the economic sector had been partially breached, so too would its stronghold in the social activity be invaded as this new group began to exercise its increased power.

As the world economy began to spiral in the aftermath of the war which ended in 1918, the elite now had to share control of the sport.

Under the presidency of Reverend Father John O' Brien, Dean of discipline and Games Master at St Mary's College, who had taken over as president in 1919, the Trinidad Amateur Football Association found itself evolving in the changing social and political climate.

It was in this changing social and political climate that teams such as Maple emerged.

Maple was the club of the brown-skinned middle class. CLR James in his book 'Beyond the Boundary,' reports: "Class did not matter so much to them as colour. They had founded themselves on the principle that they didn't want any dark people in their club. A lawyer or a doctor with a distinctly dark skin would have been blackballed, though light-skinned department store clerks of uncertain income and still more uncertain lineage were admitted as a matter of course."

A new personality also linked up with Shannon and Sporting Club, who were already involved in cricket but soon joined in the football league.

Shannon was the club of the black lower middle class: the teacher, the law clerk, the worker in the printing office and here and there a clerk in the department store.

There was also a different kind of student leaving Queen's Royal College as the thirst for education among the coloured class became more pronounced.

Maple members were all proud men who were all bent on satisfying careers.

Among them were QRC's Herbert Waterman, Weldon Ramirez, Harold Duprey, Dr Aldwyn Francis, Kenneth Gibson and Victor Richardson of St Mary's.

They filled many posts in the civil service, so much so that they were soon dubbed 'The Government,' by their followers.

Later as the colour shackles broke down, they would open up to the wider community.

But not so in 1917 when they began their meaningful and significant association with sport.

James provides another anecdote to illustrate the times: "One of the founders of the Maple Club was Kenneth Gibson, a soccer forward who in my eyes remained unexceeded in natural gifts until I saw Stanley Mathews. Kenneth had a lifelong friend, old QRC., a charming boy, well connected, a splendid player - but dark. Maple on principle didn't want him. Kenneth refused to play if his friend was not accepted. So in the end the very first Maple eleven that took the field included Kenneth's outsider. Genuis is wayward. In later years, Kenneth had a row with Maple and left them to play for another club, Sporting Club, whose foundation memebtrs ranged themselves between the lighter members of Maple and the dark Portuguese."

Nevertheless, Maple's impact on the field was immediate.

They signalled their strength by winning the Bonanza Cup in their first season, capturing the attention of many fans and opening up the eyes of much more.

The Bonanza Cup, unfortunately, was one of only two trophies during the season.

The other trophy was the BDV Cup, which also went to a new name in the TAFSA - Queen's Park Cricket Club.

Clubs such as Casuals and the Local Forces could not fulfill their football commitments as several of their members went overseas on war duties.

Those who remained registered with Queen's Park for the season and this brought immediate results with the Parkites winning the BDV Cup.

Even more success would follow in 1918, when the Parkites won both trophies. And in 1919, after the war had ended on November 11, and just before Casuals returned, they won the abbreviated league title among the five teams and completed the hattrick in the BDV Cup.

It took them four games against Shamrock in the semifinals of the BDV to advance but once they did, they scored a 2-1 victory over Shannon.

However, their efforts to repeat the Bonanza success of the previous year was prevented when labour unrest broke out in the colony and the competition was aborted.

When competition resumed in 1920, Maple grabbed the Bonanza Cup while the season saw a new look Casuals returning to action. Several of their players who had joined Queen's Park, returned to the club.

They immediately asserted themselves winning the BDV Cup but it was Royal Sussex, a team with a core of players with English heritage who took the League Shield.

During the season, the intense rivalry from the two major competitions finally led to a north/south series being introduced on an annual basis. This game was played for the Hugh McLelland Cup.

From 1920 to 1928, the Cup stayed in north. By the time the southerners won it for the first time in 1929, the Cup had become the property of the north team and a new trophy - the Gilbert Skinner Cup - was introduced in 1927.

But that would hardly have mattered to Royal Sussex in 1921. Like they did one year earlier, they again threatened to win the Shield but Casuals would prove too strong, coming on late but doing enough to win the title for the first time since 1914.

Shamrock lost two finals, going down 5-2 to Southern in the Bonanza Cup and falling to Maple for the BDV Cup. It was an ominous sign from the Cafe Boys.

The 1921 season also saw a referees committee being established. Among its members were: Frank Leotaud, Bro Warner, T. Jackson, Dickson Fraser and Captain O.T. Cutteridge, the first official secretary.

Talks were also initiated between the Association and the Turf Club, headed by the Honourable Albert H. Cipriani, with a view to stage matches in front of the Grand Stand.

Those discussions would prove successful and football started at the venue in 1922 with patrons paying 12 cents to enter the Stands.

The season also saw the introduction of the Southern Amateur Football League (SAFL).

The urgent need for fuel after the war ended had led to increased exploration in Trinidad and this had a direct effect on the population of the southland. The petroleum sector grew tremendously.

Most of the country's oil resources were in the deep south in the county of St Patrick's and the increase in oil production led to the migration of droves of workers in search of employment.

The rapid growth in population taxed the infrastructural and sporting facilities and placed a heavy burden on the resources of the Southern Amateur Football Association (SAFA), hampering its ability to cater for the region and leading to the formation of the SAFL.

The SAFL was responsible for the organisation of football in the deep south while the SAFA remained in lower San Fernando and adjoining communities.

But for the TAFSA, Maple and St Mary's would be the successful teams of 1922. The college boys won the Bonanza and BDV Cups while the ex-college boys took the league.

Queen's Park who missed the previous season made a dramatic return and threatened to win the title.

But 'The Government' were able to hold them off by one point.

The Parkites also finished second in the Bonanza Cup, losing 1-0 to the students who beat Casuals 2-0 in the BDV Cup final.

At the start of the season, Clydesdale 'father of football in the colony,' began its decline and exited from the football scene.

The club lost several of its players to Corinthians and was not able to field a team in the TAFE for the first time.

Corinthians, however, found the competition tough, winning just two games and finishing sixth in the seven-team league.

There was further excitement when two vessels HMS Redulse and HMS Hood visited the colony and their members played matches against a Trinidad team.

HMS Redulse lost 3-0 while HMS Hood held on for a 1-1 draw.

Those who noticed Shamrock's consistency of 1921 would have been disappointed in 1922 when they won only the Wilson Cup.

But from 1923-25, the League Shield would decorate their Queen's Park east clubhouse as they took sole possession of the TAFE's most prestigious titles.

The 'Cafe Boys' had not won the league since 1911. And although, they won lower divisions and contested a number of finals, it was 12 years since they won a major title.

But that was not all. The Sperling Cup, emblem of supremacy between the winners of the TAFE and the SAFL was introduced in 1924 and Shamrock duly added it to their collection, beating the SAFL champs, Tricentrol 1-0.

They then repeated the following season with victory over Trinidad Central Oilfields (TCO).

Sporting Club, though, won the Bonanza Cup in 1923, their first major trophy with a 4-3 shoreline against STM.

They put up a game fight in its defense the following year but lost to Casuals 0-1. The 'maroons' would also add the BDV Cup with victory over QRC and repeat both successes in 1925 and 1926. They won the BDV Cup outright but they were denied a four-timer in the Bonanza Cup, losing to Sporting Club 4-1 in the finals of 1927.

But the Bonanza Cup would also end up in someone's cabinet for good as Maple won it outright by beating Casuals 2-0. It was their third lien, following successes in 1917 and 1920. Had Casuals won the game, they would also have laid claims to it for keeps. The following year, it would be replaced by the Wincarnis Cup.

But Shamrock's place in history was not finished. The club was among 24 teams, 13 from north and 11 from south, which registered for the first FA trophy competition in 1927.

The English Football Association had donated the trophy to the TAFE to be played among the teams in the colony on a knock out basis.

At the end of it all, Shamrock met the south team Leasehold United and came away 4-2 winners to register the first lien on the FA.

The competition was zoned with the top team from south and north meeting in the final.

A double from Thor Scholsjeth and one each from Mathieu and Cummings were enough to deny the southerners who got their goals from Mclean and Edwards.

But while Shamrock was beginning its dominance of the league in 1923 - the Martinez Shield for inter-colonial competition was also introduced.

Frederick M. Martinez, a genial enterprising salesman with a vision for sport in the colony had donated the Shield.

Martinez saw the plethora of sporting talent and visualised the colony as the 'athletic mecca' of the south Caribbean.

As an incentive, Martinez who was dubbed the 'Prince of West Indian Salesman' offered a shield in 1908 for inter-club athletics.

Unfortunately, this was only held once - in 1908. The shield was won by Shamrock who was represented by Eric M. Legge, eventually to become the Comptroller of Customs and Excise. Legge - then 20 years, won a ten-mile marathon around the Savannah to claim the prize. The Shield then reverted to the custody of Albert Henry Cipriani who was Martinez's agent in Trinidad. When Cipriani left the colony, it was handed back to Shamrock to be kept until such time as it could be offered to a sport worthy of it.

On the inauguration of the intercolonial series, Shamrock offered the Shield to the TAFE as the official trophy.

The local team got a stern test against Demerara in their first attempt to capture it but won the series with 1-0 and 2-0 victories after the first game was drawn 1-1.

Trinidad would repeat the success in 1925 and 1926 and 1928. In 1929, Barbados joined the fray but failed to win a point as they were totally outplayed. The Trinidad team that year included Hart, Pogson, Charles, Agostini, Farrell (Capt), Jack, Daniel, Roach, H. Achong, Brown, E. Achong. Demerara continued to reign in 1931 and 1932 but the Shield finally returned to Port of Spain again in 1933.

While the Martinez Shield was being contested for in 1923, a Grenada team also visited the colony for the first time.

The visitors played four matches against club teams, winning 6-2 against a weak St Mary's team but losing to Sporting Club and Maple by 3-1 margins and to a Combined team 6-2.

But there was another development in 1923 which showed how rapidly changes were taking place in the football community.

It had to do with women's football.

It remains uncertain as to how the idea came about but a ladies game was actually planned and played at the St James Barracks.

The upper class, however, turned their noses at this effort.

The Sporting Chronicle of September 9, 1923 described the attempt as absurd:

'Some searching comments were made in regard to ladies football at the St James Barracks with which I do agree. I am sorry that the idea was not given masculine support. If not, it never might have been. Our morals must not yet descend to any such level. There are many other games such as tennis, golf, cricket etc which our young ladies might do well to take up. The very idea of women in football attire should be a deterrent to feminists taking up such a pastime. May it never occur again.'

The other significant move was the appointment of the SAFL's honorary secretary VF Prideaux to the TAFE.

It was the first time that a voice from another league was being heard in what was essentially the 'national' organ for the sport.

Prideaux was still there in 1927 when Shamrock's grip on the Shield ended and Maple immediately grabbed it, winning in 1927 and 1928.

However their victory in 1928 was tainted when Sporting Club refused to replay their game after referee George Rochford blew the game off with four minutes left.

Maple were down 1-0 when an overzealous crowd, unable to see at one end of the field, invaded the pitch and refused to leave.

The TAFE met and decided that the game should be replayed.

At the time, both teams were level on 13 points and victory for Sporting Club would have given them the title.

However, Sporting Club, unhappy with the decision, refused to replay and Maple were declared champions.

Maple were again at the centre of controversy in the FA Trophy final in 1929.

In a tense match, they were behind Everton 2-3 when Rochford, the controversial referee in the match against Sporting Club, ordered Harold Achong, one of their players, off the field. The entire Maple team protested and left the field and the match was awarded to Everton.

Earlier in the season, Casuals won the league which had seen a change in format.

Instead of six teams, the first division now had the top five clubs with a second division established for the next best five.

In addition, there was an intermediate division for the first division teams.

Whereas Shamrock had demonstrated north's superiority over the southern opponents in the Sperling Cup, Maple could not, losing to Brighton 1-0 in 1927.

However, they bounced back to avenge the defeat by beating Brighton 2-0 the following season.

The southerners would have made Prideaux a proud man during his tenure on the TAFSA. They had become the bright spot in the south, winning the SAFL on five consecutive occasions from 1926 - 1930.

The Oilwell Supply Cup which went with it, was won outright following their third victory and replaced by the Brighton Cup in 1928 which was promptly won back by the donors.

Brighton were also the first south team to win the Sperling Cup, beating Sporting Club 2-1 in 1926 and doubling up with their win against Maple the following year.

Following their loss to Maple in 1928, they would also fall to Casuals 3-0 in 1929 but a team that was becoming increasingly popular would whip them in 1930 in a final that would be a clean sweep of all the major trophies being contested.

That team was Everton, a team that represented the virtual man in the street - the lowest rung of the ladder and a team that brought out thousands of fans to the Savannah.

The Story of Football in Trinidad and Tobago 1893-2000

Chapter Four

Everton

By the time the decade of the 1920s ended, the league was structured to accommodate five teams instead of six. It was known simply as the 'First Five' league.

There was also a second division and an intermediate division for second teams from all first class clubs.

With two leagues in south, it appeared that more and more teams were playing the game. One major economic incident off the field would have a significant impact on the sport's development in Trinidad.

This time, it was in far off America which caused the stir as the collapse of the New York Stock Exchange in 1929 sent shock waves throughout the world, creating a world wide depression.

In Trinidad, the depression made the already grave economic problems more acute.

The period extending from the initial fall of the Stock Exchange to the late 1930s was characterized by unstable economic conditions and social unrest in the English speaking colonies.

Widespread poverty, especially in the rural areas, drove yet a further hoard of workers to the urban centres which soon led to the lampoon proletariat in these areas.

The Trade Union began to have a stronger voice as workers started to agitate for improved working conditions.

This trend was to impact directly on the sport as many grassroots teams, most notably Everton of Belmont began to challenge the previously upper and middle class domination of the sport.

The Belmont based team, playing with an almost unchanged team for nearly five years completely took over football from 1930-32 and was on the verge of doing so again in 1933 when they were suspended from competition.

Everton arrived on the scene in 1928. Their impact was immediate as they finished runners-up to Constabulary in the Second League.

But it was not that performance which had the sporting fraternity focused on them.

It was their efforts in the BDV Cup where they whipped league champions Maple 3-1 in the finals.

Maple had almost completely dominated the major competitions that season. Apart from the league, they won the Bonanza Cup and beat southern champs Brighton 2-0 in the Sperling Cup.

But they could not beat the aggressive no-nonsense dynamism which Everton exhibited and which made them the first team from the second division to win the BDV Cup.

Other teams may have had colored players but no team was as fully representative of the poorer working class as Everton. And while Majestic may have been the first coloured team in the TAFE in 1909, they were described in terms that suggested that they were never taken seriously.

But Everton forced everyone to stand up and take notice. Their immediate success threatened the upper class authority.

Unlike most of the other clubs, Everton had no clubhouse. Their members came together for the sole purpose of playing football and even then, their team comprised no more than 15 players for their full period of involvement from 1928 to 1933.

Their success of 1928, was paid glowing tribute in the Sporting Chronicle on December 2, 1928.

'Followers of the game will not begrudge Everton the praise that is due to them for their splendid showing this season. Playing as a second class club since their inception, they won the Clydesdale Cup, beaten only by Constabulary in the Second League.

This year they have made such rapid progress that they are now reckoned by all the first class clubs a most serious rival. Young and virile, they are a strong and fearless combination, aggressive in attack and strong in defence, With a little more level-headedness, regular teamwork and practise, Everton will soon be one of the leading club in the colony.”

Registered for the first League the following season, Everton were just one point away from the title which was won by Casuals.

The maroons, enjoying an excellent season, also won what was now the southern BDV Cup, beating Maple 2-1 and the Sperling Cup with a 3-0 shutout of Casuals.

In spite of all this, it was Everton who again captured the public’s imagination.

They won the Wincarnis Cup, which replaced the Bonanza Cup, which was won outright by Maple the previous year.

And Maple were their opponents in the FA Trophy final which they also won in strange circumstances.

In a rough and tumble game, Everton were leading 3-2 with 12 minutes remaining when referee George Rochford ordered the Maple captain Ellis Achong off the field.

Achong immediately signalled the rest of his team off the field.

Achong and his brother Harold were later suspended by the TAFE for their behavior, the captain being banned for the remainder of the season and the first four matches of 1931 while his brother got a four-match ban.

Referee Rochford reported: “I consider the behavior of the two Achongs the most disgraceful exhibition of unsportsmanship that I have ever had the misfortune to witness.”

Ironically, and in spite of the referee’s words, the council of the Association at a meeting agreed to write Everton, expressing disapproval with the rough tactics which the team employed.

But Everton, backed by increasing grassroots support, simply continued to play the game in the way which was providing results.

They won all the titles in 1930 - League, FA trophy, Wincarnis Cup and the Sperling Cup, with their captain Alfred Charles, scoring the most number of goals - 20 during the year.

And it was no different in 1931 and 32 when they repeated.

In fact, another trophy was added to their cabinet. This was the McKinney/Leotaud trophy in which they beat ‘The Rest’ teams 2-1 and 3-1 in consecutive seasons to complete their dominance.

But the guns of authority kept pointing at them. In 1931, two of their players, Morris and Daniel were suspended midway through the season for ungentlemanly conduct. And the following year, another player A.E. Tappin and the club’s secretary S.A. Moore, received similar suspensions.

Ironically, Moore’s reprimand had to do with comments made while he was a spectator.

But Everton’s march would come to an abrupt end during the 1933 season.

The champions were playing Casuals in a league fixture on September 6, when, with the score levelled 2-all, violence erupted.

The Sporting Chronicle of September 7 reported:

Scenes of rowdyism unparalleled in the annals of local football caused the termination of Everton/Casuals game yesterday eight minutes before time.

Feelings began to run high among Everton supporters soon after referee Mr Govia awarded a goal to Casuals resulting from a penalty against Hart.

Following up this success by an immediate goal, the maroons looked set to give one of their famous box finishes.

As seen by our correspondent, Noel Lewis (Casuals) was clearing the ball with Alfred Charles (Everton) in pursuit. The ball went out of play and Lewis had checked himself when he was kicked by Charles.

Lewis spoke to Charles but a section of the crowd showed open hostility to Lewis and followed him onto the field.

Casuals players then asserted that Charles assaulted Lewis and that proved the spark that caused the conflagration. Quick as thought, the field became the scene of pitched battle in which fists and feet were freely used by spectators. It was quite a while before Police had the field under control and Mr Govia quite rightly called the game off but not before he had ordered off Lewis, the Charles brothers and Morris. In the players enclosure beneath the stands, Lewis and Frank Charles again clashed and very soon, there was a battleground between players and a section of Everton supporters.”

Subsequently, the TFAA emergency committee met and decided by a vote of 14-4 to ban the Charles brothers for the 1933 season as well as 1934 and 1935.

Another Everton player Morris and Lewis of Casuals were both suspended until the end of 1934.

The TFAA annual report for the season stated: “In the return match between Casuals and Everton on September 16, a very ungentlemanly incident took place eight minutes before the end of the match that had far reaching consequences. Some of the players of both teams lost their tempers, a general melee followed in which spectators participated and the referee R. Govia had no other choice but to blow the game off after finding matters had gone beyond his control. The incidents on the field were repeated in the stands after the players left the field and the referee in due course lodged his report about happenings in the match. The council instituted a full inquiry, conducted by the emergency committee at which evidence was taken in writing by a stenographer, the players concerned being given full hearing and permission to call witnesses.”

The council concluded that the Everton players - the Charles brothers and Leroy Morris as well as Lewis, were all guilty of misconduct and as a consequence, issued their varying suspensions.

Everton appealed the suspensions but even before hearing the appeals, the TFAA insisted that they continue their league fixtures without the three players.

But the club declined to do so, pointing out that until such time as the appeal was heard, it would be unfair for them to play.

The council then ordered Everton to take the field but the club refused.

As a result, the council regarded the refusal as “insubordination to the dictates of the council and tantamount to a questioning of the Association’s authority.”

A special meeting of the council was called to deal with the situation and after careful enquiries into the case, it was decided on a majority vote that Everton be suspended ‘sine die’ from taking part in any football under the jurisdiction of the TFAA.

But there was more to follow.

Casuals too, following several meetings with their executive, opted to discontinue their season since their membership felt that it could no longer associate with the sport if Everton were allowed to participate.

The act, on the part of this long established club, and their decision to take such a step before the Association had taken action, was described in one newspaper as deplorable.

And another newspaper, the Sporting Chronicle of September 24 called the decision to suspend Everton harsh and suggested that Everton was singled out for ‘especial disfavor’ because of the club’s social status.

Under a headline ‘Jealous feeling,’ the paper wrote:

‘Is it possible that their record is such an enviable one that they have been singled out for especial disfavor.

‘Without a doubt, the Everton/Casuals incident is going to force into the open all the venom of the colour question in local sport with the added injustices which years of heavily veiled suppression has given it.’

The incident also caused the TFAA to take precautionary measures to complete the season as all the major matches were shifted to the enclosed Queen’s Park Oval.

With Casuals and Everton out of the way, Queen’s Royal College took centre stage in one of the biggest upsets of the decade.

The exit of Casuals and Everton forced the Association to reorganise the league.

And the first and second divisions were consolidated, with a decision that the top two teams would play a two best out of three finals for the Shield.

The students shocked many by qualifying to meet Shamrock for the championship.

The first game ended 2-2 and when Shamrock ran amok and slammed the youngsters 5-0 in the follow up, it seemed just a matter of time before the Cafe Boys, would take the Shield home to Queen's Park east.

Most thought the third game was a mere formality but the students led by Joffre Chambers, scored a 1-0 win, forcing a fourth game.

Chambers was again at the front, scoring twice as the College Boys stunned even their most ardent followers with a 3-2 win.

The students also won the Gooden Chisholm Cup in its inaugural year, beating the highly touted Southern Casuals in the finals. Shamrock, however, took the BDV Cup which was returned to competition after three years when no competition was played because of a crowded calendar.

Later that year, as if to show how important he was to Everton, Charles, the Everton captain left for England to become the first player from Trinidad to play professionally.

He played for Burnley's second and third division teams at a centre half.

Most of the former Everton players including Bertie Thompson, Leslie and Arthur Maynard joined Prisons who made their debut in the Second League in 1934. They immediately rewarded their team with the Wilson Cup.

But the season was conspicuous for the absence of spectators as fans boycotted the competitions because of Everton's suspension.

For the next three years, football would take a nosedive.

The absence of spectators severely affected the TAFE's finances who also had to cope with the fact that several matches had to be played at the enclosed Queen's Park Oval where the club was taking 40 percent of gates.

The club which enjoyed the most success during the 1934 season was Casuals. They won the League, the FA trophy, the Gooden Chisholm Cup the SBDV Cup and their second team won the Goodyear trophy.

But there was none of the excitement of the previous five years.

There were no crowds, no noise-making in the savannah.

Football was dying and needed an injection of sorts if the wounds that accompanied the Everton tragedy had to be healed.

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Chapter Five

The Healing Formula

During the 1934 season, it was obvious that Everton's suspension had left a negative impact on the game.

But their performances on the field had done enough to inspire enough interest in the young among the poorer class.

In a few year's time, the Everton legacy would surface but not before a three-year downwards slide hit the sport.

In 1934, Captain John O. Cuthridge took over as president of the league.

It was troubling times and for the next three years, both himself and the indefatigable Ernie Hinds worked relentlessly to put the sport on its feet.

It was a relentless battle but the pair were determined to find a solution.

Casuals, as they did the previous year were league champs in 1935 while Sporting Club, took over in 1936 but there were other events on the field that were taking place that were designed to bring back the spectators.

A team from Curacao visited Trinidad for the first time, with Andre Stollmeyer scoring a hatrick in a 3-0 victory.

There was also a noticeable reversal in employment trends since many players from North who had gone to live and play in South returned to Port of Spain.

Among these were Tom McLean, former Trinidad captain who went to Southern Casuals. He returned to Shamrock while Carlton Bart who played with Oilfields went to Notre Dame.

New trends and new groups were mushrooming to promote the sport.

During the year, a new league was formed.

Under John Camacho, the Northern Amateur Football league (NAFL) which catered for the growing population in and around the capital came into existence.

While the TAFE, SAFA and SFL still had their demarcation based on the economic and social standings, this league catered for the lower and middle income groups.

The population expansion in the east/west corridor also led to the formation of the East St George Football Association in the 1930s and was a parallel organisation to the NAFL.

Both groups emerged as a direct result of the depression of the period and allowed a social revolution, especially in football for the lower classes who quickly began to assert themselves.

They had a greater sense of power in the unity which was inculcated by the Trade Union and manifested itself on the sports field.

As a direct result of these rapid transformation, the complexion of the Trinidad team literally took on a new look.

The Trinidad team which visited Jamaica for the first time in January 1936 included several black players including Prior Jones, who would later go on to become the first black captain of the colony in 1943.

The team was: Frank Ambard, F. J. Merry, A. Maynard, D. Galt, O. Wilkes, C.B. Tench, L. Henderson, A. Wilkinson (Capt), R. Well, R. Burnett, J. Alkins, C. Sutherland, P. Jones, B. Thompson, L. Payne.

The Jamaicans filled Sabina Park to capacity to see Trinidad win the three test series.

Payne scored twice and Henderson once in a 3-2 win while Johnny Alkins was the scorer in a 1-0 victory and John Sutherland had a double in a 2-0 finale.

Trinidad also played other friendlies. The results were:

Trinidad 2 (Henderson 2) Sherwood Foresters 2

Kingston 1 Trinidad 0

Trinidad 5 Combine Schools 0

Trinidad 2 Montego Bay 1

St George Old Boys 2 Trinidad 0

The team later played two matches in Colombia - another first, as part of that country's annual Olympic celebrations.

A combined Columbia/Costa Rica team beat them 3-1 while Baranquillia also scored a 4-2 win against their visitors.

Back at home, Sporting Club tasted League success for the first time in 1936. It was so good that they repeated in 1937. But Shamrock would be the team of 1936, winning the FA trophy, SBDV Cup and the Diploma Cup.

They would surrender the FA trophy the following year to United British Oilfields Team (UBOT) in an epic battle that ended 3-2.

A Trinidad team also visited Suriname in honor of the marriage of the Crown Princess of Holland to Prince Bernhard zurr Bierterfeld.

They beat Guiana 3-0 and 3-2 and drew three matches with Suriname, scoring nine goals and having nine recorded against them to draw the series.

The increase in football in and around the colony was having a positive effect.

With new leagues mushrooming and a competitive Tafa season, the sport was enjoying a rejuvenation that seemed unlikely mere months earlier.

The most significant development though was the introduction of the Hayward Shield in 1937.

The competition brought all the Associations and Leagues into one competition and created intense rivalry that brought out some of the best football seen in the colony for such an extensive period.

Prior to this, the major attraction in local football was the North-South match played annually between the Tafa and the SAFL.

To be selected on one of these teams was regarded as the first big step to soccer fame. It was not surprising therefore to find that very keen interest was maintained throughout the years 1913 -1936 in spite of the fact that North was victorious from 1913-27 and even after this the Gilbert Skinner trophy seldom went to South from 1927-36.

The public also shared this interest for as the match approached, the outcome formed the main topic of discussion. This keenness on the part of the public made the selector's task very difficult as only the best team had to be put on the field and no consideration could be given to future team-building.

As a result many brilliant and promising youngsters had to make way for the more established and experienced players.

So the stage was well prepared when the Tafa launched the Hayward Shield Series, bringing the Tafa, TASL, NAFL, from the north and the SAFA and SAFL from the south.

The series had important advantages. The selectors now had more scope in picking their combinations, players everywhere now had a chance of reaching the highest positions in local soccer while the playing of matches in all the different centres brought the best in football to fans all over the island.

In the south, particularly in the SAFA, the effects of the Shield worked like magic. SAFA was fourth on the league table in 1937 but by 1942 it was winning the competition, not losing a single point in the series.

More importantly, this was achieved with players who were 'real southerners'.

The Shield also brought out the best in some players.

There was Ken Galt, one of the great goal-getters of the era.

Galt had already reached the top of his game in 1937 but he was in no small way responsible for the success of the SAFL in winning the Shield as often as they did.

Like Galt, Ahamad Charles had already represented Trinidad when the series started. He played at centre half for the SAFL from 1937-40 then went to the SAFA where in 1942, he scored ten goals in three matches - one of the outstanding feats in the series.

Mention must also be made of John 'Bull' Sutherland, another player who represented Trinidad before the start of the Hayward Shield.

But in the Shield, Sutherland, an inside left and his artistic teammate Neville 'Watty' Douglas were the terror of opposing defensemen until injuries forced both to take a rest in 1943.

Nathaniel Sealey, perhaps one of the fastest outside lefts seen up to that time, owed almost everything to the Shield.

He rose from obscurity to secure a place on the Trinidad team in 1943 and 44.

There was also William Baird, a classy inside right, one of the mainstays of the SAFA who by consistently good performances was called to represent Trinidad in British Guiana in 1944 and 46.

Claude Maurice was also a product of the series. As a SAFA pivot man, his selection for the Trinidad team of 1940-44 was just reward for his excellence while McDonald 'Bulldozer' Durity, a mainstay of SAFL since 1941 made his inter league debut at 18 years and represented the colony in 1944 against Barbados in Trinidad.

Finally there was Ian 'Big Chief' Seales, the powerful wing half from the SAFA. The series helped him to gain selection in the Trinidad team for BG.

The Hayward Shield then, was the spark which the TAFSA needed for fans to forget the events of 1933 when the Everton suspension turned many away. It worked like magic.

The Sporting Chronicle of December 26, 1937 gave full credit for the renewed interest to president Cuthridge and secretary Hinds.

The article written by the paper's football reporter under the name 'Fairplay' stated:

"Post war football under the TAFSA has encountered many periods which have usually been weathered through with no little difficulty.

On the years 1934, '35 and '36, soccer failed to attract the public and the financial state of the Association became so low that death threatened the sport.

Gentlemen less zealous for the welfare of the game might have abandoned all hope but not so with Captain J. O. Cuthridge, president, and Ernie Hinds, secretary, who form the backbone of the Association and once again the winter pastime has been gloriously resurrected and I look forward to an unprecedented mark next season."

By the time the Second World War was declared on September 3, 1939, another Belmont team, Colts - very much in the mold of Everton was in the making. Seemingly out of the blue, Colts reached the finals of the SBDV Cup in their first season in the TAFSA, losing to Shamrock in 1938. But the Harding brothers, Jim and Bertie, had announced themselves and Colts, would soon be making a big impact on the scene.

The Association had not only survived the loss of Everton but less than six years later, had found another club that was about to take its place.

Perhaps more importantly though, was the fact that even without Colts, the TAFSA now had an exciting new formula - the Hayward Shield that was making the sport competitive and exciting.

They had every reason to be please.

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Chapter six

World War Two - Golden era

The adverse social conditions which characterized the period leading up to the Second World War in 1939 led to a common interest with the task of making recommendations for the improvement of living conditions in the West Indies colonies.

The Lord Moyne Commission was appointed by the Colonial Government in 1938 and given the responsibility of finding some ways to help improve the quality of life.

The findings and subsequent implementation of some of its recommendations proved to be instrumental in the transition that football was to undergo in the post war period.

The report was submitted in 1939 but because of the War, was suspended until 1945.

In the interim, football did not remain dormant but its development was hindered by the austere conditions brought on by the war.

Unlike World War One when the majority of footballers were expatriates and members of the local elite whose ties with Great Britain were very strong, most footballers in the 1940s were locals whose ties to Britain were not nearly as strong, even among the local elite, hence football did not experience the massive exodus of talent as the first World War.

The Lord Moyne report dealt with labour relations, social conditions and political environment as it existed in 1938. Among its major recommendation were the strengthening of the Trade Union and the extension of their scope to include all workers, a recommendation for improvement of working conditions such as workmen's compensation, paid holidays, severance pay and minimum wages legislation.

But any advancement in these areas would have to be made after the war.

Football though, continued in the colonies.

Colts, whose entrance in the Trinidad Amateur Senior League (TASL) - another League formed in the north in the 1930s, immediately attracted attention and support from the grassroots.

In many respects, they were the 'Evertons' of their era.

In the first place they were from Belmont and their players were mostly comprised of those at the bottom rung of the economic ladder.

Their captain was Dudley Husbands, a hard-kicking wing back who would go on to guide his team to several major trophies.

Husbands was a good header and aggressive player who also represented Trinidad.

He started as a forward but his aggressiveness and hard kicking ability soon allowed him to move into defence where he became a solid player.

His star players were Bertie Harding who scored goals with unfailing regularity and his brother Jim.

Bertie represented the Senior League before joining Colts for the 1940 - 41 season in the TAFE before moving to Preston for the 1942-43 season.

An accurate shot, clever dribbler and neat trapper, he rejoined the team in 1944.

The 'Belmont Battalion' was pipped for the league title in 1940 by Casuals who beat them 3-1 in a virtual final. The maroons needed to win to secure the title and goals from Herman De Silva, Gerry Gomez and Andre Stollmeyer ensured they did.

They also won the Gooden Chisholm Cup with a 5-1 thrashing of the United British Oilfields Team (UBOT) after UBOT had completely dominated the SAFA, a feat that was also being achieved by

Apex in the SAFL. The game was a memorable one for De Silva who scored a hattrick with Gomez and Littlepage also netting.

Maple, 'the government' team took the FA Trophy with goals from Joffre Chambers and Austin Joseph giving them victory over Forest Reserve, another southern team. It was a revival of sorts for them since they had not won a trophy since 1928 when they dominated the season, winning the league, Sperling Cup and Bonanza Cup.

But Colts would win the SBDV Cup, beating Police 3-0 with Jim Harding getting a double and Downes, the other. It was their only trophy that season and although there were massive crowds when they played, they failed to win titles any the following year.

Their best performance was reserved for the FA Trophy where they reached the final but lost to southerners UBOT who repeated their success of 1937 when they beat Shamrock in the final.

The southerners had clearly done their homework, using the big tackling Edwards to keep out Harding and Downes. It was an outstanding match for their captain Frank Anderson who along with Bobby Waterman and Lillycrap, ensured victory for their team.

Anderson was also the guiding light in his team's performance in the Gooden Chisholm Cup when they beat Casuals 1-0. The maroons, had again dominated the league, with 13 points from a possible 16 and were the only club to score over 20 goals in the league, thanks to their dynamic front line which included De Silva, Stollmeyer and Gomez.

But they would have no answer to Colts in 1942.

Urged on by some of the most vocal supporters ever seen in the savannah, Colts won the league, SBDV Cup, the Gooden Chisholm Cup and contested the final of the FA Trophy against the SAFA champions Spitfire where they were held to a 1-1 draw in an epic battle but lost the replay 2-3.

The games were promoted as a battle of the goal getting ace - Jim Harding versus the star of the south Ahamad Charles, a versatile sportsman, whose prowess on the cycling, hockey and cricket fields were also winning him many friends.

In the end, Harding score once in both games. The first time earned his team a draw.

But two goals from William Baird and one by George Des Vignes proved too much for Colts whose second goal was from the boot of Roy Joseph.

But in spite of all that was happening on the football field, it was in the administrative chair that the sport would have its most significant development during the season.

It was the arrival of Eric Robert Roy James who became the first black secretary of the Football Association, replacing Ernie Hinds who held the post for 26 years.

While Hinds was a mild mannered man, James was quite the opposite.

For the next 30 odd years, James would rein.

He treated football as a business in the same manner in which his handling of the Trinidad Government Railway was administered when he became its general manager in 1961.

Throughout his working career, he demonstrated a rare quality of discipline, dedication and strong will power.

But while he was an ideal administrator who seemed to bring success to every endeavour, he also rubbed many people the wrong way and had a dictatorial attitude both on his job and at football.

James was a man who never kicked a lime in his life yet he had a passion for the game that was unexplained.

One theory is that since cricket was so well administered and established in the country through the great service of the Queen's Park Cricket Club, basically run by the white elite, James wanted to show that an organisation under the direction of mainly black and coloured people could also be just as successful.

James was a proud man who saw his position in society as of one which the public had to admire.

Without doubt he was from the old school and perhaps even before that his approach to almost every issue made that quite clear.

He annoyed his peers, frustrated several young players by excessive disciplinarian methods, embarrassed club officials by insisting his way was the only way, talked down to selectors because

they picked certain players he did not support, shut out journalists from the Grand Stand because their passes were not issued by him and generally gave the public a hard time because he wanted things done his way.

But despite the negatives and sometimes vindictive habits, James organised football in Trinidad like a dream.

When James started the entrance to a match was two shillings for Stands and 12 cents for Ground benches.

He arranged tours through the region on a regular basis and teams were invited to play in Trinidad annually.

Preparations for major games like the Red Cross Cup and North/South game were draped in purple with all the trimmings that gave it an atmosphere of royalty.

James also had the skill for arranging matches the public wanted even though he was not physically a football person.

As a matter of fact, James would have been the last person anyone in the early years of the century would have expected to make a career in football administration.

He was born August 22, 1904, the second son of Robert Alexander and Ida Elizabeth James.

His elder brother, CLR James, known as a great man of letters with strong political views, wrote perhaps the finest book on cricket to come out of the Caribbean "Beyond A Boundary" - a publication that traces not only the West Indian cricket origins but the region's social and structural development.

But while CLR played a fairly good game of cricket from boyhood, Eric remained indoors and used books instead of a bat and ball. He attended St Jude's School, Arima, and had little more than a modest educational environment.

But he was bright enough to become an accountant after taking up a job as a fourth class clerk with the Railway in 1921. He studied for his accountancy exams becoming a senior clerk and he was appointed as an accountant at the railway in 1949.

It would have come as a major surprise then when he took up a position with the Trinidad Amateur Football Association in 1940 as assistant to Hinds. Two years later he took over.

From then until he left the scene in early 1970, James called the shots.

Almost immediately upon taking up his new post in 1942, he began his thrust in inter colonial football with a series in Barbados and Guyana, then he spear-headed a visit to British Guiana in 1946 and the following year to Puerto Rico, Jamaica, Surinam and Haiti.

Trinidad hosted Jamaica in 1947 and visited that island the same year with a powerful team that included players like Joey Gonzalves, Rex Burnett, Lio Lynch, Gerry Gomez, Carlton 'Putty' Lewis, Ian Seales and Sugar Huggins.

When the British Council offered James an opportunity to study football administration in England in 1949, he not only made much of the occasion by learning everything but he arranged a future visit by a Trinidad team.

The chance came in 1953 when a national team sailed for the Mother Country under the captaincy of Gonzalves.

The side was - Gonzalves, Delbert Clarleau, Bernard Garcia, Ian Seales, Doyle Griffith, Horace Lovelace, Gerry Parsons, Paul Carr, Matthew Nunes, Colin Agostini, Robert Hamel Smith, Carlton "Putty" Lewis, Syl Dopson, Conrad Brathwaite, John Atwell, Rex Burnett, Carlton 'Squeakie' Hinds, and Pat Gomez.

It was then that the football community recognised just how good the standard of football was. The team drew with an all England amateur side and defeated several top clubs.

Both Nunes and Seymour got offers from English clubs for try-outs but because Trinidad only played 60 minute-football while the English game was for 90 minutes, Nunes didn't have the stamina to last although Seymour did play in the third division.

Throughout the 1950s, the game showed great improvement as the 1953 tour to England inspired clubs here to switch their style from the roving centre half system to the third back formation.

A Caribbean side also visited England under James' management in 1949 and it was on that visit that he had a run in with the baby of the side Eddie Aleong. It began even before the side landed in England and continued there.

Aleong who became one of Trinidad and Tobago's finest midfielders played with Notre Dame then. He was involved in several pranks aboard the ship on the way to England, including an attempt to douse some Suriname passengers with water after they had been causing the TT players some sleepless nights with their noise.

In a mix up, coach Noel Pouchet was the man drenched and when James found out he threatened to put him off the ship at the Azores Island. James may have changed his mind but both he and Aleong never enjoyed a friendly moment after that. In fact, James had the last laugh, banning Aleong from playing for Trinidad.

James also waved his big stick in the mid 1950s when he banned first class players from taking part in Sunday morning or other minor league matches.

His contention was that the first class players were frequently injured and invariably found themselves unable to represent the league or North in the inter league competitions. James actually went to the savannah on Sundays to check for himself if players broke the rule.

It was a one man decision but James seemed to have the power to make it official.

His handling of the media too was controversial. He issued passes and never allowed reporters with their companies passes to enter the Grand Stand.

In 1963, James was awarded an honorarium of \$12,000 by the TAFSA - a small fortune in those days.

The gesture reached the Guardian Sports Desk whose editor was Brunell Jones. James a private man, did not want this information published and rang the editor-in-chief Charles Espinet asking that the story not be published.

However the Evening News editor John Bierman refused to grant James' wish and the story was published.

The next day James greeted the Guardian football reporter Horace Harragin in a dry acid way shouting him down with "Now my business is on the road."

But by then James was moving towards strengthening the CONCACAF representation that incorporated the French Dutch West Indian territories. Again his work was admirable and he was made second vice president of the body when the organisation was formed.

In the late 1960s, he began shedding certain posts as he took up the appointment with the Haitian Consulate in Trinidad.

He retired from the Railway after 40 years service and soon after passed his football career over to others.

Many breathed a sigh of relief, others who saw beyond his exterior knew a giant had bade farewell. In 1969, he received medal of Merit at the National Honours ceremony for his services to football. He was also a member of the Maple Sports Club.

James passed away in 1987 but even before he died he had the courage to call Aleong and make peace with him.

But he had entered football during a time of war - the Second World War, and three years of active football had to be played before the war ended.

He was there in 1943 when Fleet Air Arm barely made it to the first five league after dominating the intermediate division one year earlier, to win the league title.

In one of the most remarkable football matches ever played in any part of the world, Fleet Air Arm lost the Gooden Chisholm Cup to SAFA champions UBOT 6-5.

Within the first 20 minutes of the match UBOT - who again dominated the SAFA, were behind by five goals. Yet, in fairy tale style, UBOT rallied to tie the score at the end of the final 60 minutes, then went on to steal the game in overtime.

It was felt that Fleet Air Arm began to toy with their opponents after the onslaught of the first 20 minutes.

Still, others argue, that this was not the case and instead it was the dynamism of Christopher, Sutherland, Bain, Dasent and Lumsden which made the difference.

Each scored with Christopher, adding salt to the wounds of Fleet Air Arm by getting the winner in extra time.

The SAFA champs also won the FA Trophy 3-1 over Sporting Club in a replay after the first game ended in a 1-1 draw.

Christopher, Bain and Watty Douglas all netted with Babsie Monteil, firing one for Sporting Club. The BDV Cup was won by another military team, First Battalion who defeated Colts 3-0 with Gerry Gomez, Tams and Drayton, scoring. It was first times for both Fleet Air Arm and First Battalion.

But a familiar name would be inscribed on the League and Gooden Chisholm titles in 1944.

Shamrock, which had not won the Shield since in 19 years since 1925 provided a combination that included Proverbs, Gonzales, De Mattos, Montes de Oca, Fred Scott, Malcolm Mclean, Maurice Quesnel, E. Murray, S. Govia, L. Murray, S. Smith to take both titles.

Maple and Sporting club distinguished themselves in the early rounds while Fleet Air Arm and Notre Dame were the other teams in the first league.

But Shamrock played steadily throughout the latter stages to win the competition.

Transport problems made the FA trophy a zonal competition and Sheffield were champions in south.

They met north champs Colts in the final in Port of Spain and Colts won on a single goal scored early in the first half.

The SBDV Cup was contested in unusual fashion. The first five clubs in the TAFE league were not allowed to take part.

A team from the NAFL- Bradford - created the season's biggest upset by beating Colts to qualify in north.

In the final, played in south, the game ended in a 1-1 draw.

However, the southerners failed to appear on two occasions for a replay and the Council awarded the trophy to Bradford.

Two years earlier, Eric James had become the first coloured man to be elected secretary of the TAFE. In 1944, Prior Jones, a big powerful and speedy centre half became the first official black man to captain Trinidad.

'Big Sam' as Jones was called, made his debut for Maple in 1936, after leaving Queen's Royal College in 1935.

He toured Jamaica with the Trinidad team in 1935, playing at back.

He was made captain of the north team in 1943 and when he was appointed to the Trinidad post in 1944, it was a popular choice.

Jones was described as 'the footballer who never had an off day.'

Under his command for the Inter-colonial tournament in Barbados were: Ralph Knowles, Randolph Merritt, Joey Gonzales, John Sampson, Dudley Husbands, S. Nicholson, Lio Lynch, Kenny Warner, Rex Burnett, Ahamad Charles, Bertie Thompson, Carlton Downes, McLean, Nattie Sealey, Sackie Govia.

Trinidad won the three-match series, beating the Bajans 4-1 in the last game after the first two games were drawn 1-1.

The team also won games against Spartan (5-0), Combined Schools (9-0) and Empire (2-1).

Manager Aldwin Francis' report of the tour was: Our half backs were well above theirs in technique. Our trio of Nicholson, Jones and Knowles did all that was required of them.

Knowles and Jones, by mutual agreement at times changed places, a tribute to Jones' unselfishness who evidently found the fast ground foiling too many of his efforts at intercepting.

These three gave an object lesson in constructive football. McLean did untiring work as a half back but his effectiveness was often lost because he attacked himself rather than initiate attacks for others.

Our forward line moved as a unit. Thompson at times overdid the 'stage-play' but was always dangerous and usually effective. Lynch and Downes, after playing excellent games, just faded out of the picture. Charles, the unfortunate victim of circumstances, headed in the first two goals and decided to boot in the others. Sackie played with more energy than effectiveness but was always a grand trier. Sealey was good and fast at outside left. Rex Burnett played perfect football in the game against the Combined Clubs, was off colour in the first Colony match and after a rest became his usual self. Knowles and Thompson played in all six games."

Jones was retained for the Goodwill triangular tournament at home in which British Guiana were added.

The home team beat the Bajans 3-0 and 6-1, drew with Guiana 1-1 and beat them 3-0.

The Guianese also scored 3-0 and 1-0 wins over the Bajans to set up the finals against the home team. Trinidad, with goals from Sealey, Charles and McLean won 3-0.

They also beat a Colony team 4-1 with a double from Charles and one each from Burnett and Thompson.

During this tournament, football was broadcast in Trinidad for the first time. Facilities were granted by the management of Cable and Wireless and Trinidad Consolidated Telephones and the broadcasters were Ken Laughlin and HR Murray.

A football booklet called 'Footergraphs' was also a first time product.

The document, detailing some of the stars in local football was produced by Joffre Chambers and Hugh Sealey, the artist.

Chambers, a member of the QRC team that won the league Shield in 1933, also played for Maple from 1933 and from 1937 represented the national team.

He was the first Trinidadian to attend coaching courses when he visited England in 1950. He did courses at Leeds, Birmingham and Loughborough before returning to Trinidad to revolutionize the game here. Chambers pioneered the third back system. He coached Dynamos during the 1950s and 60s.

But none of the local teams taking the field in 1945 had a coach.

Having disappointed their fans somewhat by not winning the SBDV title in 1944, Colts bounced back in a big way the following season.

Needing two points from their final match against British Army to take the League, Colts gave a decisive display in winning 3-0 with goals from Bertie Thompson (2) and Jim Harding.

Had they lost or the game drawn, Maple would have won the title.

The FA Trophy final played on December 8, 1945, between Colts and Forest Reserve had a great deal of emotions attached to it

One of the Colts players Joseph Remy, had died earlier in the week.

The players, all playing in black, observed one minute silence for him and then went on to give one of their most convincing displays of the season, overpowering their helpless victims 5-0.

Ivan Moore (2), Jim Harding, Husbands and Bertie Harding could have scored several more goals but the result was a foregone conclusion with more than half the game remaining.

But Colts had to share the spotlight with a Woodbrook team, just beginning to catch the eyes.

The team was Malvern who was formed by a group of friends who attended Tranquility and later Queen's Royal College.

The club's foundation members lived in Woodbrook.

Malvern entered the Pin Smith Sunday Morning league and the NAFL in 1942. They won the American Bay Rum Sunday morning Football league and the following year - 1943, won the Keynote and Camacho Brothers Cup in the NAFL.

One year later, they joined the TAFE second division which they duly won.

When they followed up on consecutive occasions, in 1945 and 1946, they were soon earning the title of 'the Woodbrook Glamour Boys.'

In addition to the Second division Shield of 1946, they also won the Wilson and JT Johnson Cups and more importantly beat Sporting Club 6-2 in the finals of the SBDV Cup.

Malvern had entered the fray during the war years.

For a number of seasons to come, they would provide a war of their own, proving to be one of the most popular teams from the decade of the 40s onwards.

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Chapter Seven

After World War 11

After the war a process of decolonizing was put into place.

The emergent local governments rejected the Lord Moyne report but most of the social recommendations were accepted.

This had a dual effect on football development.

It meant that improved working conditions further facilitated the entrance of blue collared workers into club football and increased income and modification hours of work encouraged greater public participation.

Football in the post war period once more began to develop rapidly. Two other leagues, the Tobago Amateur Football League (TAFL) and the Arima Amateur Football League (AAFL), were formed. The establishment of these two leagues in the semi rural areas effectively marked the emergence of the 'common man' as a dominant force in local club football.

In fact, there was still another kind of player emerging.

The indentured sons of India and China joined in during the period and an annual match between a local Indian and Chinese teams began.

In fact, a Trinidad Indian team led by Bernard Goolcharan toured St Vincent in 1948.

The team played three games, beating the St Vincent 2-1 in the decider to take the Prudent Cup. Other games on the tour ended in 1-all and 2-all draws.

But on the national scene, Malvern, Colts, Maple, Notre Dame and Sporting Club continued to dominate in the face of new players.

Apart from the Second Division League which they won for the third consecutive time in 1946, Malvern also won the Wilson and JT Johnson Cups.

Almost immediately, they won over the support of a man who would grow into their biggest supporter.

His name was Andre Abbott, better known as 'Lulie.'

Lulie, up to that time supported Shamrock.

But once he saw Malvern's brand of football in the NAFL, he backed them for the BDV Cup final that year and they duly obliged beating, firstly Maple 4-1 in semifinal and Sporting Club 6-2 in final of the BDV Cup.

Goals by Fred Springer (2), Carlton 'Putty' Lewis (2) and Phil Douglin and Vernon Drakes ensured that they not only took the title but were ready to make their grand entrance into the first league the following year.

For Sporting Club, it was a case of being the bridesmaid for the second time in the season as they were also in contention for league honours but lost out to Notre Dame 3-0 in a virtual final.

The Dames got goals from Noel Pouchet, Terry Bates and Alvin Rodrigues to win the Shield for the first time.

And they confirmed their position as the top team in the colony when Rodrigues, Rex Burnett and Noel Arajuo scored in the Gooden Chisholm Cup final when they beat UBOT 3-0.

Their fine run continued the following season when they added the FA Trophy to their achievements with a 2-1 win over UBOT. Terry Bates and Pat Massy were their marksmen while Peter Nicholson scored for UBOT.

However, they surrendered the league to Colts.

The league decider in the savannah was a virtual Belmont/Woodbrook war as Colts met Malvern.

Malvern's chief supporter 'Lulie' and the pressman or well known snocone vendor 'Colts,' who earned his name because of his unstinting support for the Belmont team, were also there. The savannah's two other pressmen, George and Deafie were also present and so was the lady with the tray of pone and sweetbread.

Horace Lovelace's only goal of the match sparked off mad scenes of celebration as it appeared as though the entire Belmont community equipped with trumpets and bugles and a steelband came out to support them.

They also brought homer pigeons which were released before the start of game.

Colts gave their supporters further reason to celebrate when they won the Gooden Chisholm Cup. But Malvern's rise would continue. Promoted to the first league, they retained the SBDV Cup with a plucky 2-0 victory over Maple.

During the year, Trinidad visited Jamaica for a five test series in which both teams won twice and one game was drawn.

The team was J. Gonzales, R. Merritt, S. Dopson, N. Winn, R. Burnett, C. Hinds, G. Parsons, D. Husbands, A. Joseph, S. Bolden, D. Charleau, B. Garcia, E. Espinal, P. Carr, H. Lovelace, R. Hamelsmith, L. Munroe.

The first game ended goalless and when the home team recorded 2-1 and 1-0 wins in the next two games, they seemed on the way to taking the series.

Victory in the second game of the series was the first time Jamaica had defeated Trinidad at Sabina Park. The crowd numbered some 15,000, headed by His Excellency, Sir John Huggins KCMG, governor.

Goals from Dudley Smith and Claude Morris bettered the one scored by Putty Lewis for Trinidad. McMorris scored the only goal of the third game but in a remarkable turnaround, Trinidad won the next two games 2-1 and 6-2.

McMorris again was the marksman for the home team but Lio Lynch and Andy Ganteaume replied. In the last game, Galt got a double and Gomez, Lewis, Wynn and Lynch all got on the scorecard as the Jamaicans were routed.

Trinidad also won warm up matches against Combined Schools (3-0), St Georges (4-2), drew 1-1 with Lucas and lost 1-2 to Melbourne who were the first club team in Jamaica to beat them.

Several players who were on that team retained their positions later in the year for the Inter colonial triangular series for the Standard Life trophy

The series involved Jamaica and British Guiana and the local team was: J. Gonzales, S. Dopson, G. Parsons, D. Charleau, I. Seales, C. Waldron, J. Simmonds, W. Baird, N. Douglas, F. Blake, C. Hinds, L. Lynch, A. Ganteaume, J. White, N. Winn

For the first time in almost a decade, Trinidad lost a match at home, falling 1-2 to British Guiana but it did not stop them from winning the tournament.

They hammered Jamaica 6-0 with Fedo Blake and Carlton Squeakie Hinds, scoring doubles and Baird and Lynch one each.

Then they avenged the first loss to the Guyanese with a Fedo Blake goal before winning the final 2-0, with both goals from Phil Douglin.

During that game, the entire Malvern front line of Lewis, Hinds, Blake, Douglin and Lynch represented Trinidad while the Glamour Boys also had another player 'Pinky' Waldron at half back.

In a warm up game before the tournament, Malvern also beat Jamaica 3-0 with Fedo Blake scoring all the goals.

Jamaica were making their first appearance in a tournament in Trinidad and their match against Trinidad at Skinner Park on November 13, was the first time that an inter colonial match was staged at the southern venue.

Attempts were also made during the year to form West Indies Football Board of Control but this fell through because Jamaica wanted to be free to organize its own Games. Delegates from Jamaica, St

Lucia, Grenada, British Guiana and Trinidad were present at the meeting chaired by TAFE president George Rochford.

The bickering could not stop a Trinidad team from visiting Suriname, Jamaica and Haiti during the season.

The team was : J. Gonzales, R. Merritt, S. Dopson, Popo Simmonds, Delbert Charleau, I. Seales, N. Winn, Putty Lewis, Burnett, Hinds, Douglin, Lio Lynch, Dudley Husbands, Williamson, Bertie Harding, Len Munroe, Carr.

The three-match series against Suriname was drawn with Trinidad losing 1-0, drawing goalless and winning 2-0 with goals from Charleau and Munroe.

It was a similar situation against Haiti

The first game was drawn 2-all, while goals from Espinal, Charleau and Carr saw a Trinidad 3-2 win. However, Haiti won the next game 5-0.

Two games against Jamaica were again shared with Jamaica winning 3-1 and Trinidad 2-1, thanks to Munroe and Hinds.

Another Goodwill tour to Haiti, Jamaica and Puerto Rico was staged in 1949.

The team was J. Gonzales, R. Merritt, S. Dopson, D. Husbands, G. Parsons, D. Charleau, A. Joseph, N. Winn, B. Garcia, J. Bolden, P. Carr, C. Hinds, E. Espinal, L. Munroe, R. Burnett, H. Lovelace, R. Hamel-Smith.

It was almost the same pattern as the previous year in Haiti where the first game was drawn 2-2, Trinidad won the second 3-2 and Haiti, the third 5-0.

But the Jamaica results were not good as lost two games (3-1 and 2-1) and although they won the third 2-1, it was the first time that Jamaica was beating them in a test series.

Before they headed home, Trinidad played exhibition games against Puerto Rico, winning 8-2 and 7-0.

But these overseas visits would only reflect the expansion of the game in the colony.

As more players got involved, Malvern, Maple and Colts would continue to dominate the scene.

Malvern won the league in 1948 and 49 while Maple would enjoy a remarkable run from 1950 to 1953 - the year in which the TAFE's constitution underwent a number of changes to reflect their Port of Spain bias.

The Mapleites, who had not won the title since 1928, made up for the wait.

They won the league title on four consecutive occasions and also won FA trophies in '49 and '53, BDV Cups in '52 and '53 and the Gooden Chisholm Cup from 1950 to 1952.

Malvern also added the BDV Cup in 1949 and the FA trophy in 1952.

While Colts did not win the league during this period, they provided the biggest threat to Malvern and Maple throughout. They won the FA trophy in 1948 and the BDV Cup in 1951 but also contested the finals in '49 and '52.

While their work in the league was a romp in 1948, Malvern found UBOT, a tough nut to crack in the Gooden Chisholm final.

UBOT was the first southern club to win all the trophies for which it competed and their team included Claude Maurice, John 'Bull' Sutherland, Boysie Monteil, George Edwards and Ron Lillicrapp, all with national caps but they went under 1-2.

But the British Oilmen would have their revenge the following season when the teams again topped their respective leagues and met in the playoff.

Hinds and Pirtee scored for Malvern and Drayton and Hackett for UBOT in a tense game that ended 2-2, The replay was a different game, however, with UBOT slamming the north team 4-1.

Poona Halls (2), Worrell and Drayton scored for the winners while Paul Carr replied for Malvern. The Glamour Boys seemed headed for the league hat-trick when they met Maple in the decider in 1950.

They needed to win since they were one point behind Maple.

But Allan Joseph's Maple would not be denied their first league title since 1928.

Goals from Eibert Joseph and Hicks Garcia were enough but it was captain Allan Joseph role in the Maple team which proved to be decisive.

Perhaps the strangest sight during the year was when UBOT defeated Hurricanes 3-1 to win the FA Trophy.

Although the game was an all south final, it was played in the savannah.

Trinidad visited British Guiana for three matches, winning twice and losing once.

Munroe scored in a 1-0 win while Carr, Charleau, Douglin and Lewis were on spot in a 4-1 romp.

The home team won the last game 1-0.

The team was; J. Gonzales, G. Parsons, B. Garcia, K. Akal, A. Joseph, N. Winn, D. Griffith, D. Charleau, P. Lewis, C. Hinds, P. Carr, P. Douglin, L. Munroe, R. Hamelsmith, G. Worrell, V. Richardson (manager).

Trinidad dropped Garcia, Akal, Winn, Douglin, Munroe, Hamelsmith and Worrell and included Syl Dopson, Rex Burnett, Horace Lovelace, Ivan de Gourville and Allan Rebeiro for the Esso and Suriname Governor General Cup series against Suriname and Curacao which was played here later in the year.

Lewis scored with seconds to go as Trinidad beat Curacao 3-2 in the first game. Carr got a double. He made it a hattrick as Hinds and Burnett also scored in a 5-0 rout of Suriname and when he scored in a 1-1 draw against Suriname, it meant that he had scored in all the games.

Carr was rested for the final game against Curacao as the home team continued its dominance with a 5-1 score. De Gourville got a double while Burnett, Lewis and Hinds also scored as Trinidad easily won both trophies.

Malvern also toured Barbados where they played three tests. They won twice (2-1 and 3-2) and lost 1-0.

An All Indian team also visited Dominica during the season which saw the formation of a local Sportswriters Association.

The body included : JS Barker (president), Brunnell Jones (VP), Z Albert Perez (VP), E.R. Ward (sec) and R. O. Rose (asst sec).

They would have quite a bit to write about the following season of 1951.

Maple, needing to win their final match of the season to take the Shield duly obliged, pipping Notre Dame 2-1. Nunes scored and Arajuo replied for the Dames but an own goal late in the game off the boot of Dopson gave 'The Government' their second title in succession.

It was not so close in the Gooden Chisholm final though, UBOT failing to put up the kind of fight which saw them taking the Cup in 1948 and 49.

The southerners, who shared the FA trophy after drawing 1-1 with Providence, went down 4-1 with Maple getting goals from Nunes (2), Tom Garcia and Springer.

Unfortunately, this could not be repeated in the BDV where they lost 3-0 to Colts

Southern fans would have much more to be aggrieved about. The Red Cross Cup which was in north's possession since 1947 seemed about to fall from their grasp after Rodrigues, Seales and De Gourville gave south a 3-0 lead. But in a superb comeback, a double from Seymour and goals from Hamel-smith, Lovelace and Burnett gave north a 5-3 win.

North's team was: Gonzales, Dopson, Atwell, Brathwaithe, Joseph, Winn, Lewis, Hamel Smith, Seymour, Burnett, Lovelace.

South - Thorpe, Parsons, Akal, Charleau, Seale, Griffith, Baird, Cox, Rodrigues, Steele, De Gourville.

Most of the players from that game were included in the the Trinidad team which went to Guadeloupe to defend the Esso and Standards Oil Cup.

The team included J. Gonzales, S. Dopson, B. Garcia, D. Charleau, G. Parsons, D. Griffith, A. Joseph, N. Winn, C. Lewis, C. Hinds, P. Carr, R. Burnett, C. Furlonge, S. Seymour, I. De Gourville. W.S. Browne (manager).

A goal from Lewis gave them a 1-0 win and the trophy against Guadeloupe

During the year, the Caribbean Amateur Football Association was finally formed with Eric James as first secretary

As a Maple member, he would have been particularly pleased with the results of 1952 when the government won the league title, the Gooden Chisholm Cup and the BDV trophy.

The only major trophy which escaped them was the FA Trophy won by Malvern for the first time. Inspired by Allan Joseph, Shay Seymour and Mathew Nunes, they cruised to the league title for the third consecutive time.

When they met Colts in the BDV final, they may have been conscious of the fact that the last time they won that prize was in 1927. They duly hammered their Belmont foes 4-0.

Although the score was just 2-0 in the Gooden Chisholm Cup final against Trinidad Leaseholds, it was without a doubt Maple's season.

During the year, a Caribbean All Stars team was selected to play against Jamaica in a Goodwill series in Jamaica.

Four Trinidadians goalkeeper Joey Gonzales, Allan Joseph, Gerry Parsons and Delbert Charleau were selected.

The other members were: Defenders - Andre Dieudonne (Haiti), Manny De Souza (BG), Half-backs - Yvon Dorceans (Haiti), Rafael baez Guillen (Puerto Rico), Forwards - Andre Vieux (Haiti), Jacques Banguillot (Guadeloupe), Humphrey Mynals (Suriname), Michel Kruin (Suriname), Rudie Kamperveen (Suriname), Charles Banguillot (Guadeloupe), Paul Desrosiers (Haiti) and M. Moore (BG).

The stars won the first game 5 - 1, but lost the others 1-2 and 0-1.

The inaugural match for the Hinds Memorial was also played at Apex ground, South.

North, with goals from Seymour, Hinds and Lovelace won 3-1 while Hackett replied for South.

The historic teams were: (North) - J. Gonzales, S. Dopson, T. Garcia, C. Brathwaithe, A. Joseph, N. Winn, C. Lewis, C. Hinds, S. Seymour, C. Furlonge, H. Lovelace.

South - Wilcox, Parsons, Drayton, Charleau, N. Daniel, D. Turton, W. Baird, G. Worrell, F. Hackett, Meiklen, I. De Gourville.

During the season, Joey Gonzales who had spent seven years with Shamrock, joined Notre Dame. Football was going on apace.

In order to keep up with the times, changes were necessary, including the role of the governing body.

The following season would see that happening.

The Story of Football in Trinidad and Tobago 1893 -2000

Chapter Eight

The TFA

Given the improving social and economic conditions and the vast number of new clubs and associations emerging in all areas, it was necessary to create a central body to organize the development of an organized football network.

The sport had now entered what some called the golden era in that it had become the most popular pastime which was evinced from the attendance at games and the number of registered players. Following several meetings, it was decided to change the constitution in 1953 and to unify the various leagues under one umbrella.

This resulted in the formation of the Trinidad Football Association (TFA).

The Association which was structured around the TFAFA which it partially absorbed and the Port of Spain Football league was created to embody all clubs formerly under the TFAFA.

The TFA was ultimately responsible for the dictates of policing football in the island.

Its membership comprised the various Associations which numbered nine and included the POSFL, SAFA, SAFL, ESTGFA, AAFL, NAFL, Tobago FL, St Andrew's FA and the Referees Association.

The new body, however, still had responsibility for a number of competitions. These were the Inter-league competitions, the Red Cross Cup and the FA and BDV Cup finals.

The assets of the TFAFA stood at \$10,603 and it was split between the two organizations.

The TFA retained some chairs, shirts, badges, hoses, seven reels of film and a war savings certificate which was valued at \$1,899.

Handed over to the POSFL were \$1,899, 140 chairs, 146 benches, two wheelbarrows, a lawn mower, two rollers, an iron safe, three stop watches, two coolers and a typewriter.

But while changes were made administratively, the Maple story continued on the field of play. For the fourth straight year, they won the league championship, although this time they were playing for the Port of Spain Football League title.

They also won the BDV Cup for the second year and a Sonny Thompson's goal added the FA trophy to their bag against Juniors.

Their only blemish was the Gooden Chisholm Cup which they fought for until the very end but found the United British Athletic Association team one goal too much. They lost the game 3-2 with Drayton's double and Charleau's item proving decisive.

Perhaps the most famous match between North and South took place that season. It was the Red Cross Cup in which South had taken a 3-0 lead at half time.

One of the players from that game Carlton 'Squeakie' Hinds, a Malvern, North and Trinidad player recalled the game in the Malvern 50th anniversary souvenir brochure: "One of my favorite matches was the now famous North-South Red Cross Classic of 1953 in which North came from three goals down to win 5-3. Len Leggard of Colts was having an exceptional year at inside right, my position. Eric Jardine, the Colts representative had to be appeased, so Rex Burnett of Notre Dame was sacrificed and I played at inside left (Burnett's position). It was a wet and slippery afternoon and a ball sliced off Rock Ribeiro's boot and struck Syl Dopson, our full back full in the face. It happened midway through the first half and I could see by the way he kept shaking his head that Syl was in distress.

I recall at halftime, our manager, Sonny Brown, showing Syl three fingers indicating the score. Sonny and our coach Geoff Chambers, pre-arranged a signal with Joey Gonzales, our captain, to

switch me to inside right after ten minutes in the second half if the situation did not improve. The switch was made and in the remaining 20 minutes, we managed to equalize. The game went into overtime and the rest is history - we won 5-3.”

What was significant about the five goals was that they were scored in sequence from the left side of the field to the right. First, Horace Lovelace at left wing, then Leggard at inside left, Shay Seymour at centre forward, Hinds at inside right and finally Putty Lewis at right wing.

North also won the Roy Joseph Cup 2-1 with Leggard and Alvin Corneal, scoring while Mahon scored for south.

The most significant development on the field though, did not take place in Trinidad.

It had been a busy period for Eric James, the TAFE secretary since 1942. His reputation for getting the job done had been rapidly established.

His visit to the UK in 1949 to study football administration was a huge success judging from all the changes that were made following his return.

During that visit, James had explored the possibility of a visit to the UK by a Trinidad team.

He was of the view that the West Indies cricket team had learnt a lot from playing in England nearly 50 years earlier and the the Trinidad footballers could also benefit substantially. “Our cricketers have learnt their lessons well, we hope our footballers will do the same,” he was quoted as saying in The Dorset Daily Echo of August 27.

For the next four years, he planned the tour. And in August 1953, the Trinidad team sailed aboard the

S.S. Golfito for the United Kingdom and their most historic tour.

The team was: Colin Agostini, Ian Seales, Joey Gonzales, Syl Dopson, Carlton Lewis, Paul Carr, Delbert Charleau, Allan Joseph, Gerry Parsons, Rex Burnett, Carlton Hinds, Tom Garcia, H.

Atwell, Conrad Brathwaithe, Shay Seymour, Robert Hamel-Smith, Mathew Nunes, Gerry Gomez, H. Griffith. S. V. Brown (manager)

On the way to England, the team played Jamaica twice in Jamaica, losing 3-2 and winning 1-0

For the next 2 1/2 months, Trinidad would play 14 games in the United Kingdom, winning five, losing six and drawing three.

The team proved to be extremely popular both on and off the field.

A report in the Southampton EVENING NEWS on August 24, 1953 stated: “Trinidad football touring team arrived in England today and the English weather provided a typical welcome.

Dark mist caused by incessant fine rain hung over Southampton, as the S.S. Golfito nosed its way into the dock.

But the weather could not dampen the lads spirit. They sang their way into England with a specially written calypso entitled “Fire Brigade water the road, Trinidad is coming down.”

This was in answer to a speech of welcome by Sir Stanley Rous, secretary of the English FA, who with many of the English Associations came to welcome the team.”

Trinidad lost their first game 7-3 to Dorset County with goals from Hamel-Smith (2) and Charleau who scored a penalty.

But even this did not stop the admiration for their style of play. The Dorset Daily Echo of August

27 stated: ‘What beat the tourists was their failure to adjust themselves to, and overcome, the English three-back system. Unable to penetrate close to goal, they fell back on long range shooting - some of it delightful. These visitors play a style of football reminiscent of some Continental teams. It has a graceful quality, wielding rather the rapier, rather than the bludgeon, moving the ball in the air more often than on the ground.’

The report continued : “The players are all amateurs who have been given three months leave of absence from work at full pay by their employees. They sang their way to England with calypsos and generally they seemed to have made a good impression attired in blue blazers, grey flannel trousers and red ties.”

Among the supporters in the UK were June Gonzales and Lola Hamel-Smith, wives of two players.

They too, were the subject of a newspaper report: “ June Gonzales and Lola Hamel-Smith are two attractive girls from the Caribbean who have travelled nearly 4,000 miles to see their husbands play in England. They beat them to Southampton by two days and were there when the Golfito arrived with 20 million bananas and 20 Trinidad FA tourists.

The tourists came ashore in rain. It caught up with them two days earlier and put paid to their early morning training sessions on the forecastle.

But it would be wrong to say, that they are fair weathered footballers. These are no bare-foot ball jugglers like the Nigerians and Gold Coast tourists, but booted footballers used to playing in rain - and on grass.

They confess they are as green now as the 20 million bananas but expect to improve with a programme that calls for 14 games between August 26 when they lost to Dorset FA at Weymouth and October 10 when they meet an FA Amateur XI.

These Trinidadians were singing a calypso as the Golfito docked. Chief musician is Syl Cecil Dopson, a full back who promises - or rather threatens to compose a calypso on the first defeat of an English club.”

Trinidad defeated Somerset 1-0 with Mathew Nunes scoring. The other victories were 2-1 against Ilfracombe (Lewis, Lovelace), 4-0 against Torquay (Seymour (2), Nunes, Hamelsmith), 6-3 and 4-2 versus Cornwall County where Carr scored three, Hinds (2) and Nunes in the first win and Atwell, Burnett, Seymour and Hinds, in the second win.

Apart from the loss to Dorset County, they were beaten by Somerset 1-0, Bristol Rovers 4-1, Lovells Athletics 2-1, Barnstaple Tow 2-1, Plymouth Argyle 3-0 , and Corinthian League 4-2. The drawn games were (1-1) with Exeter City and Cornwall County and 2-2 with an England Amateur team.

Trinidad scored 29 goals with 31 against with Seymour (7) and Nunes (5), leading the way. Carr 4, Hamel Smith 3, Hinds 3, Lovelace 2, Charleau 2, Atwell , Burnett and Lewis also netted. Following the tour, Seymour was approached by a talent scout to return to England the next season for a trial to play professionally in Lancashire.

Seymour, the speedy centre forward was of the opinion that the results in England might have been better were it not for the climate.

Seymour had also been playing matches that were 60 minutes while the English game was played over 90 minutes..

Harold Burnett, the former Trinidad right winger who witnessed some of the games said the problem was the inability of Trinidad to play for 90 minutes. “If TT is to take its place in International football, players must be trained to last 90 minutes. An attempt could be made to break in the local players by playing 90-minute Cup Games early in the season when the light is good.”

Trinidad also took the chance to play a game of cricket defeating Ilfracombe in a limited overs game.

Scores: Trinidad 153 for eight (Putty Lewis 52no, Allan Joseph 29, Joey Gonzales 29, S. Seymour 17. Ilfracombe 87. Harold Lovelace 5-28 (left arm spinner). Gerry Parsons 2-15.

The following season saw Maple’s league success coming to an end.

They had every chance of making it five straight when they met Sporting Club in a best-of-three final. They lost the first 3-0 with Sebastien Patron, Denzill Mapp and Russell Morle scoring but drew level in the second game with a 1-0 score in which Esbert Joseph was the marksman. They would have fancied their chances going into the third game but Patron’s only item, decided the issue and for the first time in five years, the Shield moved from the Maple Clubhouse.

The POSFL champs though, had no answer for the SAFL champs UBOT who won both the FA Trophy and the Gooden Chisholm Cup to be the season’s top team. They beat Providence 4-0 in the FA Final and it was a similar scoreline against Sporting Club. Cecil Drayton, Halls and Hacket were their scorers.

Maple also surrendered the BDV Cup in which Colts defeated Malvern 1-0.

The Story of Football in Trinidad and Tobago 1893 -2000

Chapter Nine

Ken Galt arrives

Trinidad gained internal self government one year after Ken Galt was elected President of the TFA. Galt was another one of several players who had played their football in both the TFAFA and SAFL. He was an ex-QRC old boy and represented San Fernando and Apex in the south and Shamrock in the north.

In 1936 he represented north but he was the SAFL captain in the inter-league competitions from 1937-45.

Galt also captained Trinidad to British Guiana in 1938.

He enjoyed his status as one of the most prolific goal scorers of his times. The 'Footergraph' of 1944 said of Galt: "His success has certainly been due, not so much to innate talent but rather to tenacity, industry, an unparalleled love for the game and sheer stubbornness."

The document further noted: "While at school, this youngster was banned from games by medical advise but after first secretly and then openly, he persisted and though he only obtained moderate success at school, his post school career was extraordinary brilliant."

This then was the man who joined Eric James to shape Trinidad's football from 1955.

In 1956, when the colony was granted internal self government, the political and social climate began to assume a more progressive outlook.

The period also marked the advent of the new era of technological advancement and expansion with telephones and television.

These items spread rapidly in homes. The media too enjoyed expansion and soon demanded the proper management of football.

By 1955, football was now being played over 90 minutes in keeping with international standards.

In a highly competitive season in which the Port of Spain League reverted to its five-team system, Sporting Club, emerged champions.

Both they and Malvern ended with 10 points but the winners had scored 17 goals and ten were scored against them while Malvern could find the net on only 10 occasions while six goals were scored on them.

Notre Dame, Colts and Providence were the other teams in the first league.

The FA Trophy stayed in Port of Spain with the Woodbrook Glamour Boys earning a 1-0 win over UBAA, thanks to a 'Putty' Lewis goal.

Colts won the BDV Cup with a 2-0 win over Juniors while Ronnie Gray scored a double to give South the Roy Joseph Cup.

The local team also travelled to Suriname for the inter colonial series.

The team included Willie Rodriguez, a man who would become the only person to represent the West Indies at both cricket and football.

The full team was: P. Gomez, A. Belgrave, W. Rodriguez, D. Charleau, N. Daniel, A. Hezekiah, I. Smith, D. Mapp, L. Munroe, R. Gyar, H. Cox, A. Turton, J. McVorren, D. Thomas, R. Baptiste, D. Griffith, F. Gamaldo, E. Turton. accompanied by E. James, E. Almandoz (manager).

The team played poorly and lost all three games 5-2, 3-1 and 3-0.

One year later, Notre Dame repeated their success of 1946 when they won the league and Gooden Chisholm Cup and contested the finals of the FA trophy.

Providence needed Colts to beat or hold the Dames to a draw to take the title.

Providence had ended the season with 29 points while Notre Dame had 27 points going into the final game of the season.

With 11 minutes to go, the score was 1-1 and Providence would have fancied their chances of taking the Shield.

But two goal keeping errors by Barrow allowed Notre Dame to win the game 3-1. This took them to the same number of points as Providence, but their 39 goals and 11 against were much better than Providence who had scored 40 but allowed 16 against them.

Eddie Aleong scored the only goal in the Chisholm Final against Forest Reserve to add that trophy to the Dames' bag.

But when they met Trinidad Petroleum Development (TPD) in the FA Trophy final, they could not find the net and went down 0-2. The TPD team was coached by the Scottish and Queen's Park professional John Miller and their organized approach to the game proved decisive.

The BDV Cup returned to Maple, courtesy a 1-0 win over Shamrock.

South dominated the three matches against North, winning the Red Cross Cup (2-0) and the Roy Joseph Cup (3-0) and battling to a 1-1 draw in the Hinds memorial.

In spite of this, the season lacked excitement.

A report by Sideline in the Trinidad Guardian at the end of the season reported: "The 1956 season is now something of the past. And yet, when one pauses to think of what the past four months produced, the net amount seems to be very little. Spurred on by the presence of two genial English coaches, hopes were high for a successful season. But both from a financial and technical point of view, the season was a distinct failure. Some of the roving centre half diehards may smile and say "I told you so - third back footballers are too defensive and unattractive. But surely it was not for lack of a plan that teams failed but rather because our footballers are lacking in the elementary principles that go to make a plan succeed."

Any thoughts of an improvement in 1957, would prove wrong. Colts, did as they did ten years earlier in 1947, winning both the League and Gooden Chisholm Cup to emulate Notre Dame of the previous season. They beat Shell 1-0 in the Chisholm finals with a goal from Patron.

Maple kept the BDV Cup with a 2-1 result over Malvern with Colin Licorish and Mathew Nunes scoring while Jim Flemming scored for Malvern.

Shamrock again reached the finals of a major competition but had to settle for a share with southerners Shell in the FA Trophy finals after the game drew 2-2. Extra time could not separate the teams.

North won both the Hinds memorial and the Red Cross Cup but the Roy Joseph Cup stayed in south.

In 1958, two of football's foundation members Casuals and Shamrock, shared the glory. Shamrock snatched the league and Casuals, the FA Trophy.

The pair rekindled the spirit of nearly 19 years earlier.

The League now comprised 12 teams of two divisions. The Cafe Boys had to meet Malvern, the Division 'B' winners in a playoff for the title.

The first game ended goalless but Shamrock claimed the second 2-1 with Edgar Espinal and Peter Jordan scoring for the winners and Carlton Franco for Malvern.

Dave Cabral was the marksman when Casuals sneaked in the FA Trophy with a 1-0 score against TPD.

The BDV Cup was won by Providence but Shamrock was beaten in the Chisholm final by Shell whose only goal was scored by Irving McMillan.

As was the case the previous year, North took both the season opener (Hinds Memorial) and the Red Cross Cup while as they did on the three previous occasions, south won the Roy Joseph Cup.

1959 was undoubtedly Shamrock's season. The Cafe Boys did not only keep their league Shield but succeeded in emulating the performance of Casuals of 1934.

That year, the maroons won every trophy for which they competed in the top division.

And some 25 years later, it was Shamrock's turn.

The league final was a repeat of one year earlier when they met Malvern in the playoff. Franco gave Malvern the lead but Govia equalized to ensure a replay in which Colin Agostini's goal was the decider.

Agostini scored again in the BDV Cup final against Malvern and although Malvern got a goal from C. Gordon, Richard Nieves also scored to give Shamrock a 2-1 win.

In the FA Trophy final Rowley Forde's goal was enough to give Shamrock a 1-0 win against Apex. North dominated the Hinds Memorial, Red Cross and Roy Joseph Cup, winning all three.

The decade of the 1960s would start in similar fashion to that of the 1950s.

From 1950 - 1953, Allan Joseph had guided Maple to four consecutive League Shields. Now as the 1960s began, his younger brother Sedley would do the same, carrying Maple to four more league titles in succession.

Sedley Joseph almost went one step better by winning five but a 16-year old lad who was to have a great impact on the country's football gave clear signals in 1964.

That young man was Everald Gally Cummings, then 16-years old.

Cummings was making his debut to the big scene with Paragon, a team which had spent five years in the Port of Spain Football league's second division when it started in 1953.

Finding things tough, they moved to the Northern league in 1958 and spent four years there before returning to the POSFL in 1962, the year Trinidad and Tobago gained Independence.

Both they and Regiment made their debuts in the POSFL first division in 1963 and while Regiment had to settle for runners-up in the league, Paragon, did nothing to suggest they could turn back Maple in 1964, after the Mapleites had won the league in 1960, 61, 62, and 63.

The League had returned to a 12-team contest and games were hotly contested because of the relegation system which was introduced.

By the time Paragon took the field for their last game of the season, they were two points behind Maple who ended their programme with 33 points. Paragon had 31 and only a win against Sporting Club would allow the great Maple team to fall.

Every single Maple fan and their players were at the Savannah to witness the game.

And in an exhibition worthy of champions, the 'Caribana Boys' as Paragon were called beat their opponents 2-0 with goals from John Francois and Junior Parker.

It didn't end there. Paragon also won the FA Trophy, beating BP Palo Seco 1-0, the Chisholm against the same opponents 2-0 and beat Lantern Giants 4-0 for the one year old President's

Trophy, emblem of supremacy between the POSFL champ and their counterparts from the SAFL.

The former champs of four consecutive seasons, Maple, did not go away empty handed as they won the BDV Cup and the Constantine Cup.

The latter was a repeat of the previous season where, apart from the league, they won the FA Trophy by beating Juniors 4-0 with goals from Kenny Furlonge (2), Alvin Corneal and an own goal.

Corneal scored a double and Oswin Thomas, the other when they won the Chisholm Cup 3-0 against BP Palo Seco.

Their fifth trophy was the President's (Douglin St George) Trophy where they beat Lantern Giants 2-0.

Their remarkable run started when they beat Malvern twice in three games for the league Shield in 1960. The first game was won through a Billie Samuel goal but Malvern bounced back to win the second 3-0.

In the decider, Samuel's goal made the difference.

Maple also got a double from Corneal to win the Chisholm 2-0 while Malvern beat TPD 2-0 in the FA finals with goals from Kelvin Berassa and Eddie Hart. The Woodbrook Glamour Boys, who were later named 'Team of the Year,' also won the BDV Cup with Berassa and Franco scoring in a 2-0 win against Sporting Club.

Malvern brought a new and refreshing dimension to the game during the 1961 season. Talented, skillful and cheeky, their individual dribbling skills were blended into a complete team game and

large crowds began to follow them whenever they played. When totally dominant, the team maintained possession of the ball for long periods entertaining the crowd with what was dubbed 'cha cha cha' or dancing football, which incorporated superb passing, dribbling and 'cheek.' On one occasion, one of their players Clive Niles actually sat on the ball. This, however, did not find favour with some of the officials.

During the season seven Malvern players, Clyde Burnett, Ken Henry, Gerry Brown, Carlton Franco, Kelvin Berassa, Ken Hodge and Eddie Hart were selected on the POSFL team against the Northern league.

But in spite of their vast following, they finished the season with just a share of the FA trophy following a 1-1 draw with Apex. Berassa was their scorer while C. Noel replied for Apex.

The season again belonged to Maple. In the playoff for the league trophy, they drew goalless twice with the Glamour Boys before D. Rodrigues gave them the championship goal.

Maple would share the Chisholm with Shell and win the Constantine Cup while Dynamos would shock all the big teams by winning the BDV Cup.

In their corner was Joffre Chambers, one of the country's pioneer coaches and a former national player, who had returned to the country and started coaching them in 1953. The team won the Second Division in 1957 and was promoted in 1958 and although not challenging for the league title, again shocked the fans by winning the FA Trophy in 1962 when a Kenny Nagib goal gave them a 1-0 win over BP Fyzabad (Apex).

Despite this, Maple again won the league for the third year running under Sedley Joseph. Three goalless draws with Shamrock finally ended when Corneal scored in the fourth game to give them the title.

They also won the Chisholm with a 1-0 win over Palo Seco but Berassa's goal gave Malvern a 1-0 win over them in the BDV Cup final.

With the country having gained Independence in 1962, Regiment joined first division action in 1963 for what would be a long and fruitful association with the game.

They would finish runner-up as Maple completed the four-timer for the second time.

And after Paragon break Maple's winning streak in 1964, Regiment would begin to assert themselves as giants in local football.

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Chapter Ten

The James era had one distinct local disadvantage, its urban bias. But no one could argue that it was progressive and that James had much more than the country in mind when he took over.

James had agitated for a British West Indies body since his appointment as the TAFE secretary in 1942.

He felt that the sport could only advance in the colonies if there was one body arranging, controlling and regulating visits between the various territories.

In fact, James had gone one step further and drafted a proposal for the body. But at a meeting in Port of Spain in November 1942 at which Jamaica, British Guiana, St Lucia and Grenada were present, the idea fell through when Jamaica failed to agree with reference to the extent of control which James wanted for the governing body.

Nevertheless Goodwill matches continued under James. In 1944, Trinidad toured Barbados and one year later, there was a triangular series involving the pair and British Guiana.

The next year, Trinidad toured Jamaica while in 1947, BG and Jamaica came to Trinidad and Trinidad went to Suriname for the first time.

It was Haiti's turn to pay a first visit to Trinidad in 1948 and Trinidad reciprocated in 1949 and on their way back home played both Jamaica and Puerto Rico.

In 1949, the Dutch colonies, Suriname and Curacao sent teams for a triangular series.

These contests would have been one of the reasons why James continued to chase after a Caribbean body.

His wish came finally through in 1951, at the Condado Beach Hotel when the Caribbean Football Association (CFA) was formed.

James was elected its first secretary and the TAFE president Charles Hayward was its head.

That meeting was chaired by Louis Law, executive secretary of the Caribbean International Tourism Committee and attended by S.M. Da Costa (Jamaica), William McIntosh (Haiti), Max Cabuelas (Guadeloupe), Walter Husbands (BG), Francisco Comararam (Dom Rep), Francis Wave (Aruba) and Hayward and James. The first members of the CFA were: TT, Guadeloupe, Aruba, Suriname, British Guiana (south) and Jamaica, Santo Domingo, Haiti, Puerto Rico (north).

The extent of the respect shown to James is put into perspective by the fact that in 1952, he was made the sole selector of 16 players to be drawn from the eight territories for a series of matches in Jamaica - the proceeds to go towards a hurricane relief programme.

Still there were things at home that were as important.

By 1956, the Association had established its own home at 110 Abercromby Street in Port of Spain where its secretariat could be found and from where football would be directed for several years.

The office was officially blessed by Fr. Pinard at a function in which the former president Charles Hayward, vice-president Vincent Brown and former coach/player Joffre Chambers were honoured. And in the midst of some of the finest football in the golden era of the sixties, Trinidad and Tobago finally gained membership to the FIFA at a Congress in Tokyo, on October 8, 1964.

Among the items given to the Association were a FIFA flag that was 430 x 290 centimetres; five copies of the statutes and regulations of FIFA; five copies of the laws of the game and a copy of the Universal Guide for referees.

It was a refreshing development and one that excited the country which by then had witnessed major social changes.

Another change came in the face of the TFA's first black president in 1965 when Dom Basil Mathews took over from Ken Galt who had held the post for 10 years.

It meant that for the first time, the two main men in charge of the sport were coloured.

The Dom, who was principal of St Benedict's College had brought in Hungarian coach Americo Brunner to coach his team which was dominating Colleges football and Brunner was made coach of the national team in 1965.

One year later, he would have his first success in charge guiding Trinidad and Tobago to a 3-2 victory over a Brazil Under 20 team. One of his students, Warren Archibald would figure prominently scoring twice while Alvin Corneal also scored.

On the domestic scene Regiment, second to Maple on their debut season in 1963, did not create much of an impression in 1964.

But once they had acquired the services of a number of players from Malvern, they immediately made their presence felt by winning the league, the Chisholm and the President's Cup in 1965 and '66. In addition, they shared the POSFL Cup with Malvern in '65, the FA Trophy with Juniors in '66 and in 1967 won the FA trophy and the BDV Cup.

Their victory in 1965 was clear cut. By the time they ended their penultimate match, they had 19 points and Shamrock who went into their last game with 18 points needed to beat Dynamos to deprive them of their first title.

However, the Cafe Boys lost 3-1 and the Army had the formality of drawing goalless with Luton Town in their final game to emerge champions.

They beat Shell 3-0 in the Chisholm with Stewart getting a double and Berassa, formerly of Malvern the other.

Another former Malvern player Gerry Brown scored the double when they beat Police 2-0 in the President's Cup.

The BDV Cup was retained by Maple who got goals from Kenny Furlone (2) Corneal and Thomasos who beat Paragon 4-1 while Malvern shared the FA Trophy with BP Palo Seco.

If their league success of the previous season was convincing, Regiment again won the title in 1966 before the season had ended.

Having completed the season with 22 points and scored 28 goals with eight against, the Regiment would have felt that they had the title in the bag when, Maple, just two points behind set out to play their final game against Shamrock.

The Government needed to not only win the game, but score eight goals. In the end they won 4-1 but the title was already in the bag at Teteron, headquarters of the soldiers.

They beat Shell 3-1 with Richards (2) and Berassa getting the goals in the Chisholm final and Brown scored a double when they beat Police 2-0 for the President's Cup.

They surrendered the POSFL Cup to Maple who got goals from Corneal and Thomasos in a 2-0 win over Malvern.

Chasing the hattrick, they could only look on as Maple, for the fifth time in the decade won the league in 1967. They had to share the Chisholm in a 1-1 draw with Shell who got a goal from Monty Douglas in reply to Ian De Bruin's effort.

Maple also won the POSFL Cup but could not get past SAFA champs Juniors who beat them 3-0 for the President's Cup.

Juniors, however, were no match for the soldiers who beat them in an exciting final in the FA Trophy 4-3. Victor Henry scored twice and Gamaldo and Beressa, once while Chandler, Turton and Crawford all replied for the losers.

But Maple would go on to complete the hattrick and end the decade in style taking the league title in 1968 and '69.

They needed a win against Paragon in their final game to edge Malvern for the title in '68 and beat Paragon 3-1, to finish just one point in front.

But it was much easier the following year where they ended with 27 points, three more than Malvern.

In both cases, however, they would fall in the Chisholm, firstly to Caroni who beat them with a Wilfred Cave goal in '68 and Point Fortin Civic Centre (formerly Shell) who got goals from Keith Douglas (2), Kenny Joseph and Monty Douglas in a 4-0 win.

They also contested the POSFL Cup final in '68 but Paragon beat them 4-2 with Cummings, Chin, De landro and Brown netting for the winners and Sadaphal and Corneal for Maple.

Paragon also beat Malvern 2-1 for the BDV Cup with Chin getting a double and Arthur Brown scoring for Malvern but the Glamour Boys would regain the trophy the following season with a 2-0 shutout of Queen's Park with Keith Aquil and Ulric Buggy Haynes the goal scorers.

Brown's goal would also give them the POSFL Cup against the Parkites while the Point Fortin team would add the FA Trophy to their bag with a 4-2 score against Harvard. Joseph (2), Douglas and Cave would offset goals from Garnet Harris and Rolph Clarke.

Maple's history-making captain Sedley Joseph, who emulated his brother Allan's achievement of leading the club to four consecutive league titles, was the captain of the Trinidad and Tobago team for the Pan American Games in Winnipeg, Canada in 1967.

It was the first time that the country was sending a football team to the Games. Trinidad and Tobago found themselves in a powerful group that included Colombia, Argentina and Mexico. In spite of their inexperience, the local team left the tournament as the bronze medalist, the only time during the century that the country's footballers won a medal at the Games.

In the process, they beat Argentina - also the first and only time - with Kelvin Berassa's goal deciding the match.

Trinidad and Tobago started the series by beating Colombia 5-2, after being 2-0 down.

Pat Small and Gerry Brown each got a double while Berassa again found the mark in one of the remarkable come-backs in the country's history.

They then drew with Mexico 1-1 with Tyrone DeLabastide scoring a 72nd minute penalty to earn his team a point.

According to skipper Joseph, when he called the team's penalty kicker Victor Gamaldo to take the shot, he refused. "He didn't want to do it although he was the man earmarked to kick our penalties."

Trinidad and Tobago needed to beat the Argentines to advance and after a goalless first half, Berassa scored in the 60th minute and there was mad celebrations from hundreds of Trinidad supporters who were living in Canada when the final whistle was blown.

There was a view that Trinidad and Tobago took the Bermuda team for granted in the semifinals and lost 1-3 with Gamaldo scoring a consolation goal in the 72nd minute.

But there was no stopping them in the race for the bronze medal against Canada.

They completely dominated the game, slamming their helpless opponents 4-1 with goals from Gerry Browne (43rd), Berassa (52nd), Andy Aleong (82nd) and Jeff Gellineau (88th).

The full medal winning team was: Sedley Joseph (capt), Lincoln Phillips, Jean Mouttet, Aldwyn Ferguson, Selwyn Murren, Bertrand Grell, Tyrone De La Bastide, Hugh Mulzac, Arnim David, Victor Gamaldo, Andy Aleong, Jeff Gellineau, Alvin Corneal, Gerry Browne, Pat Small, Kelvin Berassa with Ivan Montes (manager), Conrad Brathwaithe (coach).

One year later, Joseph resigned from the team and DeLabastide took charge.

'The Tank,' as Delabastide was called, took the team to the 1969 CONCACAF Senior Championships in Costa Rica.

It was a dismal series in more ways than one. Trinidad and Tobago played five matches, lost three, won and drew one.

They opened the campaign against Guatemala with a 0-0 loss but gave an improved performance in the second game in which they came from two goals down to beat Jamaica 3-2.

Everald Cummings, Keith Douglas and Ulric 'Buggy' Haynes scored and although Cummings scored in the next game against the Dutch West Indies, they lost 1-2.

A goalless draw against Mexico followed but eventual winners Costa Rica, playing at home slammed them 5-0 to send them packing.

However, during the tour there were several problems and when the team returned home, 11 players and their trainer, Trevor Smith, were suspended by the Association pending an investigation into acts of indiscipline.

Reports indicated that the players almost took strike action during the tour in solidarity with Smith who was almost sent home after calling for better payment for the players.

On returning home, chef de mission Phil Douglin, manager Ernil Paul filed a report after which the TTFA called an inquiry and suspended the following players: Leroy De Leon, Keith Douglas, Wilfred Cave, Kenny Joseph, Cummings, Gerard Figeroux, George Romano, Max Mascal, Mervyn Springer, Gwenwyn Cust and Haynes.

Those who escaped punishment were Delabastide, Arnim David, Mervyn Crawford, Selwyn Murren, Leo Brwester, Lawrence Rondon and Bertrand Grell.

However, De Leon, Douglas, Cave and Joseph filed an injunction against the TTFA and following the investigation, the charges against the players were dropped.

Smith's ban remained but he too, took court action against the TTFA, following which the TTFA were ordered to lift the ban.

It was a tumultuous way to end the decade of the sixties and start the 1970s.

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Chapter Eleven

The three-year period between 1970-72 was characterized by a shift in the economic policy of the government, the purpose of which was to change the distribution of income by more aggressively promoting the economic development of groups which traditionally had been the most depressed in the society.

This thrust directly impacted upon football. The downturn in the economy, the rising levels of unemployment, social unrests, specifically the Black Power movement, demographic shifts, expansion of the foreign media and the growing entertainment industry worldwide contributed to the alarming decline in net earnings of the Association.

For some time the majority of the affiliates experienced financial hardships.

Only the POSFL was able to avoid insolvency because it was at the heart of local activity. Central to the financial woes of most affiliates was the problem of controlling and collecting gates which came about because clubs did not have their own enclosed grounds.

Sponsorship was also very difficult partially because of the Black Power Movement of 1970 which changed life in the country in a big way.

Sections of the population, particularly the urban black youth, were caught up in a crisis of awareness which led to major social unrest.

Independence had failed to provide them with the kind of benefits they had expected and eight years later, the country's economy was still in the hands of foreigners.

As a result, groups of unemployed youth and radicals forged links with a loose confederation called the National Joint Action Committee (NJAC).

Its leader was Geddes Granger, an undergraduate in his thirties who was at the University of the West Indies, St Augustine.

Granger was on a scholarship in Social Sciences and together with another student Dave D'Arbreau, spearheaded a series of protests triggered by the arrests of several West Indian students involved in the occupation and destruction of the computer centre at Sir George Williams University in Montreal, Canada.

They took their cause to the street, marching throughout the capital, Port of Spain.

Confrontations with authority were inevitable. As NJAC took to the streets, home made bombs were thrown into foreign owned businesses as well as the residence of the United States Vice Consul in Port of Spain. The crusade marched to the Canadian High Commission and the Royal Bank of Canada and invaded the Roman Catholic Cathedral in Port of Spain where they made speeches and held dialogue with the priests.

The following morning, five members of the movement were arrested for disorderly behavior in a place of worship.

The arrests, though, only helped to attract more interest in the group and before long more than ten thousands students took to the streets shouting 'POWER, POWER.'

The crowd increased when Granger announced that he was organising a joint march between African and Indian youths from Port of Spain to the heartland of Central in a show of working class solidarity.

Sensing that the growing tide of dissent could escalate into a full scale revolution, the country's Prime Minister Dr Eric Williams, announced a five percent tax levy on all companies which he explained was intended to combat unemployment.

He also warned businessmen about discrimination in the work place - a problem which Granger and his group had identified as being one of the major ills in the society.

The private sector was mostly white businessmen and the militant movement scared off many of these businessmen who went abroad to avoid conflict in the wake of the insurgency.

The course of football changed drastically during this period. Many popular white clubs such as Shamrock and Casuals began to fade and the other teams began to realise the change in the class status of their membership.

Football was truly going through a transitional stage.

The expansion in luxury industry where a number of exotic sports found favour including yachting, golf and squash created a new elitist interest.

But there were many other activities during 1970 which influenced change in the country.

During the uprising, several soldiers mutinied and were later charged.

Such actions had a negative impact on the Army, but their footballers, even in the face of adversity, fought on on the football field.

Except for the FA Trophy which Maple won, Regiment swept all the major trophies in the POSFL, although they threatened to throw away the league with two matches to go.

They drew their last two games against bottom of the table Luton Town 1-1 and mid table Maple.

But the two points they got, took them to 29 points from their 18 matches, one more than runners up, Police.

They then beat Maple 2-1 in the BDV Cup with Tim Lamkin scoring a double and Corneal replying for Maple and had a similar score against Caroni in the Chisholm final with I. Phillip and M. Yorke their marksmen and Lawrence Rondon scoring for Caroni.

Their opponents in the President's Cup were Lanes who lost 3-0 with Victory Henry (2) and Phillip, the scorers.

Regiment also won the POSFL Cup, the trophy for the most goals and the Intermediate league Shield to complete a fine haul.

Only's Maple's 3-0 win over Texaco in the FA final escaped them. Garnet Harris scored a double while Jimmy Springer also got on the score sheet.

Regiment and Paragon shared the only competition which was completed in 1971 - the POSFL Cup.

The league and all the other competitions failed to finish and were called off because of the Fifth Seniors Concacaf Championships which were staged in Trinidad.

It was the first time that the country was staging such a massive tournament with five of the biggest teams in the zone assembled.

They were Mexico, Haiti, Costa Rica, Cuba, Honduras and the host, Trinidad and Tobago.

During the tournament, night football was introduced and matches were played under lights at both King George V Park in Port of Spain and Skinner Park in San Fernando for the first time.

Even before a ball was kicked though, controversy reigned. The local players threatened to strike.

They demanded two pairs of boots, insurance for the duration of the tournament, track and sweat shirts, proper hotel accommodation, a bonus tour to Canada if victorious, four (4) passes per player, security for loss of earnings and \$500 for out of pocket expenses.

The Tafa offered 1 pass, track suit and sweat shirt and \$150 out of pocket.

Only one member of the squad Jimmy Springer refused to play. The others were Gerard Figeroux, Tommy Roche, Mervyn Crawford, Russell Teshiera, Victor McGill, Henry Dennie, Arnim David, Monty Douglas, Oscar Durity, Clibert Lennard, Wilfred Cave, Winston Phillips, Warren Archibald, Lyle Jeffrey, Steve David, Selwyn Murren, Raymond Moraldo, Sydney Augustine, Calvin Lewis, Ulric Haynes and Charlie Spooner.

Trinidad and Tobago eventually finished fifth in the tournament with a 3-1 win over Costa Rica and 2-2 and 1-1 draws with Cuba and Honduras.

They lost 6-1 to Haiti and 2-0 to eventual winners Mexico who played unbeaten.

The Mexicans also beat Honduras 2-1, Cuba 1-0, and Costa Rica 1-0 and drew goalless with Haiti.

Philippe Vorbe, the Haitian mid fielder was the 'Most Valuable Player' in the series.

During that series, Austin Jack Warner, a youthful schoolteacher with a degree in history and sociology who would go on to have a most significant role in Trinidad and Tobago's football showed the first signs of his administrative skills.

Warner, representing the Central Football Association (CFA) on the Council had had several clashes with James, particularly where the constitution was concerned.

But their battle came to a head when James demanded to be paid for his services during the series. Warner protested vociferously, pointing out that every other member of the council was volunteering their services.

He told the council that once James was paid, all members were entitled to the same treatment. James had asked for \$10,000 and threatened to resign if he did not get it.

But Warner was adamant.

According to John Alleyne, a former TAFSA vice-president in Warner's biography 'Upwards Through the Night,' Warner turned to the meeting and expressed the view that James should be allowed to go if he so desired. Alleyne stated: "Warner turned to the meeting and said 'Gentlemen, if today or tomorrow, Mr Eric James dies, are we going to fold up as an organisation or will we not have to put our heads together and run the tournament?'"

The Council decided that James would not be paid but ten days before the start of the tournament, another major problem surfaced when the committee responsible for raising funds, reported that it had failed in its efforts.

Alleyne again put things in perspective. "It was during this period that we discovered that Warner was a fixer of things. Whenever there was a problem, Warner found a solution. He put his hand in the air to help for everything. When questions were raised about the organising of the opening ceremony, Warner said he would look after it. The committee wanted to know about queens for the march past and outfits for them. Warner got the girls, found sponsors for their outfits, got a place for them to dress and made sure they were there and knew what to do at the opening.'

The tournament turned out to be a financial flop with the TAFSA losing some \$51,000. The media was highly critical of its organising but in the end, Warner was the lone success story.

When it was over, however, James resigned and many of his colleagues breathed a sigh of relief. He had contributed over 30 years of service to football but the times had changed and his approach was not going to be tolerated by the new dispensation that was now preparing to manage football. He had entered the picture during colonial times, the first coloured man to do so and with a lot to prove.

But it was a much different scenario in 1971.

Apart from being an Independent country for nine years, the Black Power Movement of a year earlier had opened the way for a new breed of Trinidadian, who was not going to allow him to dictate as he did in the past. He was loudly acclaimed as he took his exit, but many were quite pleased to see him leave.

James' immediate successor was his assistant Cyril Austin but he lasted just a few months before Warner moved into the chair that he would fight tooth and nail to hold on to until 1990 when he finally decided that he had had enough and was ready for another level of football administration.

But those days were still a long way off.

During the season, Trinidad also hosted a triangular tournament - the Du Maurier Series in which the English teams, Chelsea and Southampton were involved while the Brazilian team Nautico played a three-match series, winning, drawing and losing.

The team also travelled to the Pan Am Games in Cali, Colombia where victories were recorded against Jamaica (2-0) and Canada 1-0 while games against Mexico and Colombia were drawn 1-1 and 2-2 but losses were recorded against Cuba (0-1) and Argentina (1-3),

Cave and Ken Murren scored against Jamaica while Ulric 'Buggy' Haynes was the marksman against Canada.

Murren also scored against Colombia along with Steve David.

Cave scored his second goal of the tournament against Mexico while Haynes had similar success in the lost cause against Argentina who avenged their defeat of 1967.

Regiment's conversion to the Defence Force made little difference to their approach on the field in 1972. The soldiers won a league title that was back to two divisions of seven teams with a playoff between the winners of each group.

Malvern took the lead in the play-off via an own goal but Milton Archibald equalized and Len La Forest and Kenny Joseph also scored to give them a 3-1 win.

They shared the Chisholm Cup with Point Fortin Civic Centre in a 1-1 draw with Monty Joseph and La Forest the netshakers while Hurricanes were their victims in the President's Cup - a stunning 4-0 shutout of Hurricanes with Joseph getting a hat-trick and Sackie Harewood the other.

However, they were beaten 3-0 in the POSFL Cup by Paragon with Tansley Thompson, McMillan and Lester scoring.

Colts won the BDV Cup with a 1-0 score over Malvern and Maple beat Texaco 3-0 in the FA Trophy final with Harris, Corneal and Ken Butcher scoring. The season was marred by what was later referred to as 'the Pelee Melee' as the Brazilian team Santos with the great Pele in its lineup, visited the country.

The team arrived in September and some 30,000 spectators filled the Oval to witness the match. It was scheduled to start at 4 p.m. but some 30 minutes later, there was no sign of the kickoff.

This caused the crowd to get restless especially as there was no public address system to inform the spectators that the Brazilians had left their gear at the airport and the baggage was on its way.

Before long, bottles were thrown, spectators ran onto the field and chaos erupted.

Tear gas had to be used to prevent severe disruption and several fans were injured in the confusion.

There was one death but the victim had fallen from a tree hours before the riot. All was back to order by 5 p.m. but the late start allowed only 45 minutes of play, just enough time for Santos to score one goal.

The confusion, then calm that surrounded the game may have been a sign of things to come for the rest of the decade.

The Story of Football in Trinidad and Tobago 1893 -2000

Chapter 12

Austin Jack Warner

AUSTIN Jack Warner joined the Council in 1967 as the Central Football League's (CFL) representative.

A schoolteacher by profession, Warner belonged to the new, vibrant group of Trinidadians who was still searching for an identity, some five years after Dr Eric Williams guided Trinidad and Tobago to Independence in 1962.

Born in Rio Claro, south Trinidad on January 26, 1943, the year in which Prior Jones, became the first coloured man to captain north, Warner and his three sisters and two brothers were almost single-handedly brought up by their mother Stella, a simple, hard working woman with a firm belief in God.

Mrs Warner cleaned the quarters of the train workers at the Railway station to ensure that her children went to school.

She had many battles with her abusive husband, Wilton, who insisted that she used the family's miserly earnings for what he described as 'better things' rather than sending their children to school.

Poor and black, the young Warner attended the St Theresa's Roman Catholic School in Rio Claro and later when his parents moved to Longdenville in 1953, he was transferred to the Primary school in the area.

Warner got a scholarship from Trinidad Clay Products to attend the College of St Phillip's and St James which in 1958 was changed to Presentation College, Chaguanas.

He attended Mausica Teachers Training College and the University of the West Indies where he obtained his degree in history in 1967.

Upon his elevation to the Council, Warner realised that Eric James, the TAFE's general secretary was the person who called the shots.

He was convinced, however, that while James' approach was tenable prior to Independence in 1962, it was going to be difficult for him to operate in the same way as the country approached the turbulent period of the early 1970s.

As he stepped into new territory at the beginning of 1970, Warner found time to associate with Geddes Granger and the Black Power Movement. He had met Granger at the University and was among his supporters in the early part of his campaign. He organised and gave lectures on behalf of the movement and called on the Black youth to have a more meaningful involvement in the affairs of the country.

This involvement did not find favour with the authorities and Warner was transferred from his teaching post at the Government Training College in Port of Spain to the North Eastern College in the deep east.

This did not stop him.

He continued his association with the Movement until he returned home one afternoon to find his wife and other family members being harassed by army and police personnel.

Complaints only brought a message that he should back off from the Movement.

With the terror on the face of his family fully embedded in his mind, Warner decided to back off.

From that day on, he dedicated his life to teaching and football administration.

When James resigned in 1971, Warner had to wait one year while Cyril Austin sat in the chair.

He became the TTFA secretary in 1973 where he stayed for the next 16 years until he tendered his resignation in 1990.

During that period, Warner became the strong man of football in the country and continued to hold the power well into the next century.

If James was autocratic, Warner was dictatorial. He ran football as he liked, sensing that one day Trinidad and Tobago would become the centre for the sport in the region.

Warner survived organised campaigns against him and votes of no confidence. He also battled against a public that referred to him as an arrogant, self-centred dictator, who surrounded himself with an army of incompetents in an effort to maintain power.

One weekly newspaper suggested that he was simply interested in strengthening his own pockets rather than improving football.

The most significant event during Warner's first year in office was Trinidad and Tobago's performance in the World Cup qualifiers.

The country had made its debut in the tournament in 1966 and played again in 1970 but remained a statistic having failed to get past the first round.

But in 1973, Trinidad and Tobago gave a glimpse of the raw talent which the country possessed by getting within one point of qualifying for the finals in Germany in 1974.

(SEE CHAPTER ON WORLD CUP FOOTBALL).

Trinidad finished second to Haiti in the Concacaf playoffs in Haiti. But in a match which left many of their players devastated, the Trinidadians lost 1-2 after scoring five goals against Haiti, four of which were disallowed.

In 1990, Trinidad would miss qualification by a mere point again. But this time, instead of one team, the region was allowed two representatives in the finals in Italy. But the local team which had earned the sobriquet 'Strike Squad' - could only finish third, behind Costa Rica and the United States.

Hundreds of thousands of dollars were spent on preparation for that team.

In 1973, however, finding money to prepare the team was a problem.

Among Warner's first role during the year was to endorse a call by the Association's president Ken Galt for financial assistance for the team.

Galt had made the plea in the early part of the year, pointing out that the team reached the semifinals under tremendous financial pressure. Galt, a prominent businessman with an unending love for the game, had personally gone into his pocket to provide funds.

The Haiti trip cost \$70,000 but Government's contribution was just \$21,000.

Football was not the only sport suffering from financial and other administrative problems.

By the time the team returned from Haiti, there was a government inquiry into sport.

Cricket and horse-racing, both of which were still controlled by the elite clubs, Queen's Park and the Trinidad Turf Club were not part of the inquiry.

Warner, whose recommendation to rename the organisation the Trinidad and Tobago Football Association (TTFA) to reflect the sister isle was approved, was among those who testified at the inquiry.

He described the atmosphere in the TTFA as acrimonious and bitter, claiming it was filled with rifts and perpetuated a constant battle between the big and small leagues. He spoke of officials from one area who refused to attend matches in another and claimed there was an excess of infighting among the TTFA membership.

Warner said members did not want to relinquish power because they viewed their positions as a status symbol which gave them a chance to meet important people at cocktail parties and to see their names and photographs in the newspapers.

Warner claimed that officials did not have the Association at heart but were intent on seeking their own interest.

His presentation was well received by the public who saw a young vibrant secretary on the verge of transforming the Association from an antiquated body into one which could initiate a brighter future for the sport.

But the morale of the members of the Association was clearly broken.

That did not seem to worry Warner who set out on a course to reconstruct the country's football. He stopped the affiliated status of the respective leagues and associations and made them full members of the TAFE.

This meant their executives no longer had power - they were mere figure heads.

Warner then introduced the National Football League (NFL) with 12 clubs. These were Defence Force, Maple, Point Fortin Civic Centre, Caroni, Police, TECSA, Challengers, Juniors, Texaco, St Barb's, Hotspurs and Montrose United.

His stated objective was to bring the south, north and east zones into the organisation's fold and create a league which was more representative of the entire country.

He established a deliberate policy to extend football to the outlying areas and villages, pointing out that no player would be denied an opportunity to represent his country because of colour, class or the misfortune of residence.

This was stoutly resisted by the POSFL, since the move robbed the league of some of its top teams and players and with it the prestige and revenue earning capabilities.

He made the Association responsible for the FA trophy series which featured all teams in the National Football league, four from the Port of Spain Football League, four from the SFA, three from SFL, two from the NAFL, CStGFL, CFA PYMFL and the AFL.

This was designed to revive public interest and facilitate the centralization process.

Gradually the TTFA usurped the authority of the league in the collection of sponsorship and gate receipts and by 1976, the satellite leagues were just a shadow of themselves and it became easy to disband them.

At a special meeting on November 18, 1976, a new constitution was accepted by the general body. Instead of leagues, area committees were formed.

The north zone was comprised of the POSFL and the NAFL and included teams from Carenage to Morvant. East Zone was converted from the PYMFL, CStGFL and AFL and took in Morvant to Arima while Central which involved teams from Chaguanas to Point-a-Pierre left the CFL and CFA behind. There was also a south zone to replace the SFA and SFL which catered for teams from Pointe-a-Pierre to Point Fortin while Tobago also had its own zone.

The format for competition also changed with several zones opting for three and four divisions to cater for the expansion in teams.

The move was in keeping with Warner's election pledge to introduce the sport to the outlying areas and villages in the country.

However there were several problems. There was a general lack of basic skills to run clubs and this soon became obvious as the leagues became disorganized. There was never enough grounds and the communication between the respective zones and the umbrella body always proved to be a problem.

But the introduction of the zones also had another major disadvantage. Several of the top players moved away from the organised clubs and returned to the areas where they lived to represent teams in their zones.

Clubs such as Malvern and Maple lost good players to teams in the zones and this led to a fragmentation in the club structure which had a deleterious effect on the game.

The disorganized arrangements and general poor atmosphere affected crowd support.

This form of competition also took away from old rivalries, particularly the classics.

In fact the lengthy league competitions and the international obligations caused the staging of the annual classics to be sidelined.

Nevertheless Warner initiated his changes with increasing faith in his own ability.

He introduced new teams, wrote their constitution and guided them to such an extent that many became dependent on him.

He invited and encouraged their officers to serve on committees and gave them various posts on the administration.

But while this was well intentioned and formed part of his philosophy to open up football to as many as possible, several of the people whom he put into office were simply incompetent. On occasions, he was clearly embarrassed by their actions.

Mediocrity and incompetence was allowed and accepted as Warner laid the foundation for a constituency of followers whose blind loyalty kept him in office.

He established a groundswell of support, making no apology for the course he was taking, pointing out that it was both legal and democratic.

But even in this atmosphere, Warner's critics saw changes and innovation that were well meant. He worked tirelessly to keep Trinidad and Tobago abreast of the developments in the football world, introducing a proliferation of courses in coaching, refereeing, sports medicine and sports administration.

These were reinforced with visits to Trinidad by Dr Jaoa Havelange, president of the FIFA with whom Warner had developed a relationship.

And five years after he took his seat, he initiated a Caribbean Football Federation.

He felt that the English-speaking Caribbean teams who were affiliated to the CONCACAF zone were not getting proper representation from the Latin American dominated organisation.

He bullied other countries in the region to form the CFU which finally came on line in 1978.

But in spite of this, football in Trinidad remained at the crossroads.

Financial constraints continued to haunt the Association while a series of High Court action did nothing to help its image.

The Hilton Hotel sued the TTFA for \$39,000 which was owed over three years there were writs filed by teams within the Association which painted a picture of an Association divided among itself.

Eviction notices were served at headquarters at 110 Abercromby Street and referees pushed for outstanding fees as Warner called on government for support.

However, he found himself embroiled in a personality clash with the government's representative, Marilyn Gordon, parliamentary secretary for sport.

Gordon, a former national track and field and hockey star, wanted specific documents from the TTFA, including the Association's audited accounts before funds could be released to the organisation.

Following a meeting between her ministry and the TTFA, Gordon reported that her confidence was shaken when Warner told her he had three separate statements, one for the clubs, one for the public and one for her.

Warner later claimed he was joking but Gordon clearly took him seriously and the stage was set for a great deal of hostility between the Government and the Association.

It did not help the Association's image when an application for affiliation from the country's first full professional team, the Pro-Pioneers was turned down.

The TTFA claimed that the Pioneers were breaking FIFA rules since amateurs could not have dual contracts. Public outcry momentarily forced a change of heart.

However the TTFA again objected explaining that the Pioneers was a scratch team which had gone behind the Association's back and held discussions with clubs about the formation of a Professional league.

Warner announced that he had information that the Pioneers were selling franchises to start its own competition. This he explained was a direct contravention of FIFA rules since it appeared that the Pioneers were interested in taking over football in the country.

It took the oil boom of the late seventies to help football get back on its feet.

This was evident in the early 80s which saw a revival of sorts with increased sponsorship from the business communities.

Companies such as Carib, Flipper and Aviation Services Limited (ASL) got involved in a big way as the TTFA strengthened its position into a powerful oligarchy.

Everything was now centralized.

The area committees, although they had voting rights were subservient and powerless before the oligarchy.

The oligarchy may not have been intended to operate this way but in transforming the organisation, a more forceful administration was created and had taken full control of the sport.

More international matches with some of the world's leading teams brought back the crowds and business interest returned.

Coaching programs increased rapidly and there was relative stability and contentment among the clubs.

During this period, youth football became more vibrant.

Competitions were introduced among the Under 12s, Under 14s, Under 16s and Under 19s.

So well organised were these tournaments that the inaugural Concacaf Youth tournament which was held in 1983 was later adopted by the FIFA as one of its tournaments.

These competition produced several of the players who serviced the Strike Squad of 1989 Among them were Russell Latapy, who eventually played in the Scottish First Division; Dwight Yorke who went via Aston Villa en route to the English top team Manchester United in 1998, Leonson Lewis, Clint Marcelle and Divid Nakhid.

In fact, they also proved the feeding ground for Trinidad and Tobago's first qualification for a World Cup in 1991 when Yorke took the team to the sixth World Youth Championships in Portugal.

On the way, the team had drawn goalless with Canada and defeated El Salvador 3-1, the United States 1-0 and Guatemala 2-1 to qualify for the finals.

Yorke who was already playing professionally for Aston Villa, scored twice in the win against Guatemala and had another double against El Salvador where Angus Eve also scored. Eve was the marksman against Mexico in the only loss of the qualifying round (2-1) and it was Jerren Nixon's goal against the USA which gave his team the go-ahead for Portugal.

Trinidad and Tobago's team for the finals was: Clayton Ince, Michael McCommie, Kirk Trotman, Shawn Boney, Dale Boucher, Richard Theodore, Angus Eve, Nigel Davidson, Hayden James, Kerwin Emmanuel, Glen Benjamin, Granville Millington, Jerren Nixon, Dean Pacheco, Anthony Sherwood, Dwight Yorke (Capt) Roger Henry and D. Moze with Bertille St Clair (coach), James Balfour (assistant) Hess Alexander (manager), Leslie Hoyte (Trainer) and Victor Jackson (equipment manager).

But once the team arrived in Portugal, it failed to earn one point or score one goal after three matches.

The team lost 0-2 to Australia, 0-6 to Egypt and 0-4 to the Soviet Union.

But while Warner's focus was the youth, he did not ignore the senior team which quickly established itself as the top team in the Caribbean between 1974 and 1987. He obtained the services of foreign coaches for regional and international campaigns and although the team failed to impact on the World Cup stage, Trinidad and Tobago dominated the region.

Between 1974 and 1987, some 121 foreign teams visited Trinidad.

Among them were several English club teams, Manchester United, Tottenham Hotspurs, Arsenal, Southampton, Everton, the Brazilian Under 20s, Nautico, the Italian Under 21 team, Sweden, Cuba, Bradford City, Hearts of Scotland.

Some of these teams, ironically, were brought to the country by an organisation which the TTFA outlawed in 1981.

The body was called the Trinidad and Tobago Premier Soccer League (TTPSL) and it was the brainchild of businessman Arthur Suite.

Suite who owned the Aviation Services Limited (ASL) introduced 'the professional footballer' to Trinidad and Tobago, forming the ASL Sports Club which became the first organisation to pay its players, despite the fact they were campaigning in the lower division of the north zone.

Suite recruited the best players in the country including the national captain Leroy Spann, Ron La Forest, Noel Sammy LLewelyn, Vaughn Alexander, Earl Carter, John Granville and Trevor Fredericks.

And although the team started in the north zone, it took just two years to win promotion into the National League in 1980.

Inspired by good crowd support, Suite launched his league in March 1981, offering some \$160,000 in prize money.

He also revealed that eight of the country's top teams - Challengers, Essex, San Fernando Strikers, Essex, HAS Cocorite United, CCI Falcons, Ebonites, and his team ASL Sports would play in its first season.

The TTPSL then applied to the TTFA for associate membership which was promptly denied.

Warner suggested that the organisation was turning back the clock by centralizing the sport in Port of Spain. He stated that the League's constitution was unacceptable and argued that under FIFA rules, it was a proprietary league and could not be entertained. He immediately banned all players, officials and others associated with the league from any relationship with the governing body.

Suite called on Warner to say what part of his constitution was in breach but his letter was ignored. Nevertheless the league opened with a Disney parade on June 5, 1981, complete with Mickey Mouse characters.

It came at a time when a new breed of player was emerging and the top players were no longer contented to play without financial rewards.

When the season ended, the ASL team won both the league and the knock out title in matches that were all contested in front of good crowds at the PSA Centre.

The teams which stayed in the TTFA's National League were Defence Force, Memphis, Tesoro Palo Seco, Police, Tarouca Utd, Maple, Malvern, Point Fortin Civic Centre, TESCA, Peterborough, Benefica, Telcos, Fulham, Jabloteh, Forest Reserve Police and Tesoro.

Defence Force won both the league and FA Trophy. Although ending with the same 47 points as Palo Seco in the league, their goal difference was much superior. It was less difficult for them in the FA Trophy final where they slammed Memphis 5-0.

Despite losing some of the major players, Trinidad and Tobago won the Caribbean Football Union's Nation's Cup in Puerto Rico.

The team was: Michael Maurice, Shurland Richards, Reynold George, Wayne Joseph, Joel Rahim, Colin Skeene, Curtis Murrell, C. Riley, Garfield De Silva, Patrick Geoffroy, Terry Williams, Cleveland Mendes, Oscar Waldron, Nevick Denoon, Frank Haynes, Alvin Anderson., Keith Eddy, Veron Skinner, Garnet Craig, Bert Neptune and Michael Didier.

Eddy and Skinner scored in 2-0 wins against St Vincent and the Grenadines and Guadeloupe and Cleveland Mendes got a double, and Skinner, Craig, Haynes and Joseph all scored in a 6-0 rout against Puerto Rico.

The following year, the TTPSL amended its constitution to come in line with the requirements of FIFA and were granted affiliate status by the TTFA.

Now called the Carib Professional league, it had grown from eight to twelve teams.

They were BWIA ASL Sports, Strikers, Malvern, Memphis, Ebonites, Police, Modniks, Falcons, ECM Motown, Challengers, Essex and Cocorite United.

The TTFA competition which was called the Stag National Football league comprised 16 teams as follows: Jabloteh, Forest Reserve Estate Police, Maple, Defence Force, Palo Seco, Point Fortin Civic Centre, Leeds United, Tacarigua Utd, Caroni, Fulham, Peterborough, Concordians, Barataria Ball Players, Texaco, Benefica and Telcos.

Immediately, there was a dramatic swing in the sport as several foreign teams, on the invitation of Suite visited and played against ASL Sports and the national team.

The United States visited for the first time and drew 1-1 with their host before beating a Trinidad and Tobago team 2-1.

Suriname beat the National team 3-2 but lost 1-0 to ASL Sports. English team Arsenal won against ASL Sports 3-2 but beat a representative team from the league 2-0 while Ireland won their only game against ASL 3-1.

Manchester United also won two games 2-1 and 4-1 while Bermuda battled a Trinidad and Tobago team 2-2 in the opening match of the season.

Two Brazilian powerhouses, Flamengo - the team of superstars Zico and Junior and Corinthians also played a game each.

Flamengo beat ASL 3-1 and their countrymen went on a goal spree in an 8-2 rout.

ASL won the league but Memphis won both the Premier Cup and the People's KO trophy.

The Defence Force also repeated their success of the previous year by winning the Stag sponsored NFL.

Perhaps, the most bizarre aspect of the season was when the national team aborted plans to go to the CAC Games in Cuba in August.

Having prepared for the tournament, the players were at the airport and all set to board the plane when one of the players, Brian Williams was declared medically unfit by a doctor.

The Association reacted angrily and withdrew the team.

Before the year ended, there was good news for football when Suite and the TTFA settled their differences and agreed on one major league for the 1983 season.

It was noticeable during the year that there was a lot of negotiations between officials of the PSL and the TTFA.

And on December 8, 1983, an agreement was reached for one body - the Trinidad and Tobago Football league (TTFL) to replace the two rival leagues.

The new league included the top five teams from both PSL and NSL and were joined by the National Under 21 team for the season.

They were : BWIA ASL Sports Club, ECM Sports, Malvern, HAS Cocorite, KFC Memphis (PSL) and Defence Force, Tac arigua United.

Forest Reserve Estate Police , Leeds United and Tesoro Palo Seco (NFL).

The TTFA's constitution was changed to permit Suite to become first vice-president of the association.

The agreement gave ASL Properties Limited a franchise to run the Trinidad and Tobago Football League (TTFL) on a day to day basis while the TTFA continued to run football in the lower divisions.

ASL won both the league and FA Trophy but the year proved to be disastrous as far as club football was concerned. Excessive rain disrupted the fixtures and attendances at matches were poor.

By the year end, Suite announced the League was folding.

The most significant development during the year, however, was the elevation of Warner to the FIFA executive.

At the beginning of the year, Warner was appointed to the FIFA executive after Andre Kamperveen, the CFU representative was killed in Suriname during an uprising in that country.

Warner 39, was the youngest person to be placed on the FIFA body as the average age was 55. He attended his first meeting of the governing body for football on May 19, 1983 in Switzerland and one month later was elected president of the Caribbean Football Union, to replace Kamperveen.

But any smiles that came to his face as a result of his promotions, were wiped off his face by the end of the season in December when a group calling itself the 'Interim Committee' headed by St Elmo Gopaul called for an extra ordinary general meeting of the TFA to debate a motion of no-confidence in the body.

Letters were sent to the President, the Minister of Sport and following an avalanche of letters which were published in the newspapers, the TTFA agreed to the meeting.

On February 12, 1984, at a seven-hour meeting in Central, Trinidad rejected the motion 70-43 with two abstentions.

In spite of the folding of the joint league and the motion of no confidence in the Association's Suite's ASL was among the 12 teams in the National Football league for the 1984 season which opened with a match between an India team and Trinidad and Tobago at the National Stadium. The Indians won the game 3-1 with Nevick Denoon scoring for the home team but the season was a major flop with spectators staying away.

ASL again won the league with 57 points after 22 matches. Their nearest rivals were Defence Force who had 46 points.

The two teams were among qualifiers for the 'Big Four' series later in the year, a series that was expected to attract crowd support and therefore income for the Association.

But Suite told the TTFA that the club was not be taking part.

However, after the Association found a replacement, Suite changed his mind and decided to play.

But the TTFA refused to change its position and ASL was not allowed in the series.

Suite promptly announced that ASL would not be taking part in the TTFA competition the following season.

That set the stage for more confrontation between ASL and the TTFA.

On January 14, 1985, Suite launched the Trinidad and Tobago Football Federation (TTFF).

He had in his corner some of the top names in local football.

These included former national player and coach Alvin Corneal, Edgar Vidale, Ken Butcher, Ken Bartolo and Suite's brother Cecil.

The Association responded by declaring the organisers persona non grata with its president Peter O Connor stating: "They can do it but they will not be part of international football."

The TTFF was a direct rival to the Association and attempted to compete with it by playing a zonal competition instead of the national league.

ASL won the north zone but there was none of the interest of the past years.

Defence Force, as was expected dominated the TTFA's National league and then survived a torrid 1-1 draw with Trintoc in the FA Trophy final before winning a penalty shootout after 20 shots on goal.

Earlier, the season opened with Manchester United and Southampton playing to a 1-1 draw at the National Stadium - a game that attracted 18,000 fans.

Another English team Bradford City also visited. They won and lost but more importantly, they saw a young man by the name of Russell Latapy and invited him for trials.

Latapy, at 14 years, was voted the country's footballer of the year in 1983 after dominating the Coca Cola Youth series in which he was voted "MVP."

His trial with Bradford City would set the stage for a career that would see him earning the sobriquet of 'The Little Magician,' a tribute to his excellence at midfield.

Eventually, he played with Porto in Portugal before moving to Hibernian in Scotland and then to Rangers.

His trial with Bradford City set the stage for hundreds of others to follow and by the time 2000 reached, Trinidad and Tobago had nearly 50 players with professional contracts in Europe.

These included Tobago-born Dwight Yorke who started with Aston Villa before earning a lucrative \$12.5 million pound transfer to the top English team Manchester United.

Players like Shaka Hislop (West Ham), Stern John (Nott Forest), Anthony Rougier, Marvin Andrews (Livingston) were among those who followed Latapy into professional careers.

But the 1985 confrontation between the two bodies led to difficult times for the sport.

The game had already suffered from the PSL conflict, losing public confidence which ultimately had a negative effect on the revenues of the association.

With two organisations competing in a diminishing market, none could do well.

This TFA incurred major debts, forcing the secretary to dip into his pocket to prop up the association financially.

Despite this, the TTFA soldiered on.

They had the advantage of being the FIFA representatives where members could play international competition.

Business, although sympathetic to the Federation, threw their weight behind the Association where they stood to benefit more.

The Federation, however, thanks to Ken Butcher, a Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Sport whose team Ebonites was among its members, was able to get an investigation into the TTFA's constitution.

Sports Minister Jennifer Johnson appointed former High Court judge Ralph Narine to review the constitution but Narine reported that contrary to allegations, clubs did have a controlling vote as there were 117 registered clubs whereas members of the general council constituted just 47 persons.

This meant that clubs had the power to remove the general council.

Whereas Justice Narine's report had no direct impact on the sport, it indirectly served as a stepping stone to constitutional reform.

It represented a symbolic victory for both organizations.

The TTFF was convinced that it offered judicial legitimacy to its claims while the Association was able to show its power and supremacy.

In the face of unsurmountable odds, the TTFF realised that change could not come from outside and hence initiated talks with its opponents resulting in the reunification in 1988.

But even before this, Warner continued to face a hostile public.

Dennis Yhip, one of his adversaries and one of the members of Suite's defunct Premier Soccer League made a stinging attack on him in the Mirror of September 1987.

Just two years before Trinidad and Tobago was on the brink of qualifying for the World Cup finals,

Yhip, giving the reasons why he thought the country's football had reached its lowest level wrote: 'One answer is the maladministration of football for the past 12 years. The football politicians of the present regime because of their desire to stay in power at all costs have destroyed our game.

Eric James passed a cardboard box around and still made money. Clubs started to demand just rewards for their efforts and James recognized this and accommodated them in part. The present regime would have none of that. The secretary is dictatorial. Because of their supposedly

rude but mainly principled stand, clubs have experienced a decade of stacatto-like fusillade of victimization, spite, hate, anger. suspensions, warnings and fines when the politics of self-

aggrandisement suited the bosses ...or boss. The position on the FIFA committee given to Trinidad and Tobago through the death of Andre Kamperveen was used and abused to hoodwink the nation through all aspects of an equally unthinking media into believing the TTFA is competent through the trappings of good organisation.

The business community through the exposure of their business have been cleverly used to perpetrate an immoral regime on the football. More than two dozen times in three years, the constitution has been tampered with, but the in clique through shady and low-keyed methods have ensured the nefarious secretarial sinks its talon into TO soccer and its spin-off personal

benefits."The eventual reconciliation between Suite's group and the TTFA came on the eve of Trinidad and Tobago's campaign in the World Cup of 1990 where the success of the team temporarily removed the focus from the constitutional question and also served to concretise the oligarchy's position of dominance.

The events of that campaign and in particular, the team's final match against the United States in which T&T needed a draw to become the first English-speaking Caribbean country to reach the World Cup but lost 0-1, were to become a most historic chapter in Trinidad and Tobago.

By the time it was over, the country would enjoy many great moments and become united in a way like it never did before.

Warner would ride a wave of popularity before finding himself just short of being tarred and feathered.

At the end of it all, he would move on to another chapter in football administration, one that would see Trinidad and Tobago becoming the mecca of the sport in the Caribbean.

The Story of Football in Trinidad and Tobago 1893 -2000

Chapter 13

The World Cup

By the time Trinidad and Tobago's began its bid to qualify for the World Cup finals in Italy in 1990,

the country had made six previous attempts.

Having joined the FIFA in 1964, Trinidad and Tobago made its debut to the competition for England in 1966. But although Trinidad and Tobago started with a 2-1 win against Suriname, the inexperienced team could not go past the first round.

This was followed by efforts to qualify for Mexico (1970), West Germany (1974), Argentina (1978), Spain (1982) and Mexico (1986).

The second effort in 1970 was also unsuccessful and like the first, Trinidad and Tobago could not get past the first round.

But the twin-island Republic was unlucky

not to have qualified for West Germany in 1974 when bizarre officiating in Haiti denied them of an historic entrance on the world stage.

It was a most heart-breaking tournament for Trinidad and Tobago.

The team had played excellent football throughout the preliminary round of the competition to comfortably qualify for the playoffs in Haiti.

Having gained Independence eleven years earlier on August 31, 1962, Trinidad and Tobago had every reason to prove to the rest of the world that it was ready to stand on its own when it began its bid in 1973.

Several of the players had been exposed to professional and semi-professional football.

Among them were New York based Warren Archibald, Selris Figaro, Selwyn Murren, Everald 'Gally' Cummings and semi-professional Anthony Douglas who was based in Canada.

The Football Association had also hired an International coach in Englishman Kevin Verity who was assisted by locals Edgar Vidale (assistant coach), Ken Henry (trainer) and Polly Regis (physiotherapist).

Ivan Carter was chef de mission and Oliver Camps, manager.

The full team was: Gerald Figeroux, Kelvin Barclay, Devenish Paul (goalkeepers), Russell Tesheira, Raymond Moraldo, Selwyn Murren (captain), Selris Figaro, Winston Phillips (defenders), Cummings, Dennis Morgan, Sydney Augustine, Leon Carpette, Anthony Douglas, Peter Mitchell (midfielders), Steve Khan, Wilfred Cave, Ray Roberts, Leo Brewster, Steve David and Warren Archibald (forwards).

Earlier the team had bulldozed its way through the first round where it headed group six with 1-1 and 2-1 victories over Antigua and a 1-1 home result and 2-1 away win against Suriname.

All that remained between them and Germany was Haiti, Mexico, Guatemala, Netherland Antilles and Honduras.

Trinidad lost its first game 0-1 to Honduras and knew that it was vital to collect two points in the second game against the host.

They put up one of their best performances from a local team in major football competitions, scoring five goals but at the end of the game, the score read Haiti 2 Trinidad and Tobago 1.

The game will forever remain etched in the minds of the local fans as one in which their team was robbed and denied of an opportunity to play in the World Cup.

It was marred by some of the worst officiating in a match of such magnitude and later, the referee Jose Enrique of El Salvador and Canadian linesman James Higuete were both banned for life by the FIFA.

A report of the match in the Trinidad Guardian of December 6, 1973, written by Keith Sheppard who covered the tournament tells the story: Sheppard wrote:

“If I had not seen it with my own eyes, I would not believe it. Trinidad and Tobago scored five times and should have gotten a penalty in each session but lost 1-2 to Haiti in a very one-sided match at the Sylvia Cator Stadium here last night. They say goals win matches. This is one time they didn't.

I know it will be hard for the pessimistic fans home to believe. But our boys played over through and around the home team from start to finish so much so that Philippe Vorbe, voted Player of the tournament in Trinidad two years ago, looked like an ordinary schoolboy and even the Haitian people hardly noticed that he voluntarily left the field eight minutes before time.

Perhaps it was voodoo working against us but for those who do not care for the supernatural, I can blame it on the very strange decisions of referee Jose Enrique (El Salvador) and James Higuete (Canada).

They virtually nailed us to the cross. Because of last night, the team which played like champs are now likely to return home as chumps.

Henrique who does not understand a word of English, decided it was a goal in the 12th minute when a long throw from Winston Phillips landed in the net after brushing off a Haiti defender. It looked legal to me and to the referee on the spot. But with the ball ready to be kicked off, Haitians in the crowd drew the players attention to the fact that the linesman Higuete's flag was up. I do not know what Higuete could have said but his action, signifying that the goalie had been jostled were strange since Rudy Roberts was the only player close enough to worry the goalie and did nothing of the sort suddenly found favour with the referee whom I repeat had been on the spot and had said goal.

This was just the first of many strange decisions which caused players and officials to be in tears when the final whistle came and many Haitians to line the streets and cheer us on the way back to the hotel.

At the time of the first disallowed goal, TT was trailing 0-1 on a ninth minute goal from Emmanuel Sanon - his third of the series. He was on spot to tap home a low cross from right winger Claude Bartholomew which had eluded the TT defenders.

Two minutes after this setback, however, Steve David notched the second goal of the series to win a case of beer bet with one of TT's leading pessimists 'Short Mikey' from Belmont. Archibald went up the left flank and sent over a low pass for David to do the rest.

That was the signal for an all out onslaught on the Haiti goal. In the 30th minute, another Phillips throw tweaked goalie Henri Francillon fingers and landed in the net. No goal, of course.

Seconds later, a Cummings crack had Francillon diving to hold and the same player shot off a bullet from about 20 yards which was back in play off the upright before Francillon could move. It was really vintage soccer and Archibald made the unofficial half time score 4-1 by heading in the ball after Cummings had taken it to the line before squaring it back. Why was it disallowed? Ask linesman Higuete. He ruled offside.

The second half was a carbon copy of the first. The midfield trio of Douglas, Moraldo and Cummings so dominated play that Haiti had only two cracks from well outside the box before getting the winner during a scrimmage in the 87th minute from left winger Roger St Vin.

In the 61st minute a Roberts' flick bounced off Francillon's shoulder and fell on an obliging Steve David head. Again the decision went against us. It was ruled a foul on the goalie.

After the match everyone was sympathetic towards us. But who cared. We were robbed for sure. No hand shake will change that.

“I will never forget this night as long as I live,” said English professional coach Kevin Verity.

Ron Newman, coach of the US pro soccer team Dallas Tornado also had a comment. "You can quote me on this. You were robbed. I have never seen anything like this in my life."

Needless to say our boys are disgruntled. Some are saying they are not feeling to play any more. I can understand that feeling. It was real tough luck..."

With much to prove, the local team went back into action and won their next three games, including a 4-0 whipping over tournament favourites, Mexico.

Cummings scored in a 1-0 win against Guatemala and he added two more against Mexico while David and Archibald also got on the score sheet.

David, however, stole the show against the Netherlands, getting a beaver-trick.

He eventually won the prize for the most goals. Cummings was voted 'Player of the tournament.' and Kelvin Barclay was the best goalkeeper .

Trinidad and Tobago also collected \$47,000 for placing second in the tournament while each player was presented with a gold wrist watch by 'Baby Doc' Duvalier, president of Haiti.

But these were no consolation as Haiti had ended the series with eight points, including the dubious two from their victory against Trinidad and Tobago who finished second with six points.

Manager Oliver Camps later described the Haiti game as one of the most difficult in his life. "Big men were crying like babies. Some lost the urge to get off the ground and return to the dressing room. I don't know which match the referee and linesman were seeing but it certainly wasn't the one between Haiti and Trinidad and Tobago."

Trinidad and Tobago eventually filed a protest and although all the officials were banned, the results stood.

If the 1974 experience was heart-breaking, then the failure of 1990 to reach Italy fell just short of being a national disaster.

Going into the final match of the qualifying round against the United States, Trinidad and Tobago needed just one point or a draw to reach Italy.

That they failed to do so and the reasons will continue to be debated.

Unlike 1974 when only one team qualified to represent the region, the number had increased to two by 1990.

Costa Rica, with 11 points, had earned one of the qualifying berths by the time the last game of the series came on November 19, 1989.

The second place in Italy would go to either the United States or Trinidad and Tobago, the latter playing in front of its home crowd and very much favoured to get a draw.

Each team had nine points.

However, TT would qualify with a draw, having scored seven goals with four against while the USA had the same number of points but had scored only five goals with two against.

Everald 'Gally' Cummings, who was 'Most Valuable Player,' in Haiti in 1973, had graduated and was now coach of the team which had affectionately been dubbed - the Strike Squad.

Camps, who was also there in 1974, was recalled as manager while Ken Henry was back as trainer.

The technical team also had an assistant coach in Neville Chance, Lester Osuna (physio), Shirley Rudd Ottley (psychologist), Rawle Sylvester (team doctor) and Ikin Williams (equipment manager).

Backed up by a team of experienced and naturally talented players, things looked bright for Cummings' squad.

The squad included a youthful Dwight Yorke, later to become one of the most expensive players in Europe, Russell Latapy rated the 33rd among the best player in the world in 1999, Leonson Lewis, Dexter Francis, Michael Maurice, Kerry Jamerson, Brian Williams, Clayton Morris (captain), Marvin Faustin, Hutson Charles, Philbert Jones, Leroy Spann, Colvin Hutchinson, Dexter Lee, Marlon Morris, Maurice Alibey, Earl Carter, Paul Elliot Allen, Errol Lovell, Floyd Lawrence and Ricky Nelson.

The campaign had started well.

Victories by 4-1 and 1-0 margins against Guyana in the first round, was almost a foregone conclusion.

And although, TT advanced past the second round on the away goals rule against Honduras after two draws of 0-0 (home) and 1-1 (away), it meant that following the Haiti experience of 1974, 16 years and four World Cups later, TT had again reached the play-off stage of the tournament. A last minute goal by Hutson Charles in their first match against the USA in Torrance, California, gave them a great start and a vital away point.

They followed up with another point against Costa Rica at home, thanks to a Philbert Jones 68th minute goal after Costa Rica had lead from the first minute of the second half.

Costa Rica again scored first in the away game and the score stayed that way until the end, giving them two points at home.

That result did not affect the Strike Squad which bounced back with a 2-0 home win against El Salvador and earned another point in a goalless draw away from home.

Both goals were scored by Lewis and when TT defeat Guatemala 1-0 and 2-1 in successive games, with Jamerson scoring late goals in each, there was an atmosphere of optimism and the entire country held its breath in anticipation of the final game against the Americans.

The week leading up to the game was almost like Carnival in the country.

The Football Association declared the seven days leading to the game Winners' Week as the country hummed with activities.

Calypsonians composed new songs in tribute to the team while minute by minute reference was made of the match on radio and television.

The Carnival vibrations reached giddy proportions by the time 'R' arrived in the word WINNERS.

It was Red Day - the Friday before Sunday November 19 when the entire population was asked to wear red.

In St James, the entertainment capital of the country, the spirit of Carnival had already taken up residence.

From within the country's famous bars and the other well known rum shops, DJ music blasted the piping hot sounds that kept the red-clothed revellers dancing on the sidewalks and backed up traffic for several blocks.

Truckloads of speakers eased along the streets, hypnotizing followers with the songs of Superblue's 'Road to Italy', Colin Lucas' 'Football Dance'. and Power's 'Goal' - three songs specifically released for the occasion.

The occasion was used to forge a spirit of unity, that was difficult to imagine.

It didn't matter that the players on the team were all Afro-Trinbagonians.

Indo-Trinis, the Whites, Chinese and every citizen of Trinidad and Tobago added their support to the team, joining in the pre-match build up and premeditated victory celebrations.

Long before dawn on the morning of the match, they crowded the venue and although the stadium had a capacity of just 32,000 persons, more than 50,000 were inside.

Several others who had purchased tickets were left outside when the gates were closed long before the 4 p.m. kick off.

At home, another 1.2 million people waited with radios glued to their ears or sat in front of their television sets, awaiting the most anxious 90 minutes in the country's sporting history.

But it ended like a nightmare.

An innocuous looking shot from American midfielder Paul Caliguirri in the 31st minute settled the issue.

Caliguirri's shot, from some 20 metres out, appeared to have caught goalkeeper Michael Maurice unaware and the ball lobbed into the back of the net to give the visitors a 1-0 lead and the two points that they needed to reach Italy.

When the final whistle blew, the local players could hardly leave the field with many sprawled out on the turf, tears flowing.

For weeks later, the Football Association, led by Warner, was called upon to provide reasons for the loss and to answer questions over the over-selling of tickets and the overcrowding of the National Stadium as the country tried to find out why things had gone so badly off course. Later the government ordered a Commission of Inquiry into the overcrowding and overselling of tickets and extended it to overcrowding at Carnival events.

But S.C. Lionel Seemungal, the commissioner never completed the assignment, citing an absence of co-operation and resources as the reasons.

What prevailed in 1990, however, was a far cry from 1965 when the Trinidad and Tobago team took the field for its first ever World Cup encounter in group two of the Concacaf zone.

The historic day was February 7, 1965 and Trinidad and Tobago's opponent was Suriname while the venue was the Queen's Park Oval, Port of Spain.

The local squad included Lincoln Phillips, Aldwyn Ferguson, Tyrone de la Bastide, Clem Clarke, Doyle Griffith, Sedley Joseph (captain), Kenneth Furlonge, Andy Aleong, Jeff Gellineau, Trevor Leacock, Victor Gamaldo, Bobby Sookram, Alvin Corneal and Pat Small, with Conrad Brathwaite (coach), C.E. Thompson (manager).

The debutantes shocked their opponents with a 4-1 victory in front of a packed crowd. Goals from Gellineau, Aleong (two) and Corneal gave the country an ideal start to its campaign.

But it turned out to be the only success in four matches.

The next three games were all lost by a combined total of 11 goals, with Trinidad and Tobago scoring only once.

Costa Rica registered 4-0 and 1-0 victories before Suriname exacted some revenge with a comprehensive 6-1 result in the return game in Paramaribo.

The Costa Ricans headed the group and met Jamaica and Mexico in the play-off for the one spot in the finals. Eventually, Mexico won and represented the CONCACAF in England.

Sedley Joseph, the Trinidad and Tobago captain in discussing the historic game said that following the first match victory, members of his team actually thought that they would qualify for England. "Some of the chaps really felt we would qualify for England. But unfortunately, we were quickly brought down to earth in the following game against Costa Rica who whipped us 4-0."

Joseph, who later became a national team manager and sports commentator, compared that first experience in 1965 to several years later when Trinidad and Tobago were one point away from qualifying for Italy. "We never had the things which the 1990 squad had. There were no advance camps or stadium in which to train. Instead we were all amateurs, leaving our jobs at 4 p.m. and traveling up to QRC grounds, the savannah, the Barracks or the Army grounds to train for two or three hours. We never had any technical staff. It was just a coach - Conrad Brathwaite who was a very dedicated person and did almost everything for us."

He described the game against Suriname as a dream start after Trinidad and Tobago scored in the first minute. "The ball was played back to me from the kick-off. I played it to Alvin Corneal on the left side and he crossed it. The ball deflected off a Suriname player and went back to Corneal who again crossed and Jeff (Gellineau) jumped and headed it into the net. After that we kept them under pressure and scored three more."

Following the game, the Trinidad and Tobago team celebrated in the dressing room with soft drinks.

Andy Aleong, scorer of two goals, recalled: "In those days when you put on your national jersey, there was a feeling which is difficult to describe. There was no money. You did not get paid. You had to go to the manager's office and sign for your jersey, pants and socks and at the end of the match, you returned it. It was a far cry from what happens today."

Aleong remembered when the TT players were forced to go into the visitors' dressing room to get back their jerseys which they had exchanged. "The Mexicans took off their jerseys and gave them to us and we reciprocated. When we got to our dressing room, our manager told us to go and get back the TT jerseys since we only had two jerseys per player. It was embarrassing."

In that World Cup final, the host, England beat Germany 4-2 in extra time after a 2-all regulation time score.

TT made their second appearance when trying to reach Mexico in 1970. Playing in group 2 of the zone, they again failed to move past the first round, losing to Guatemala 4-0 away, then drawing goalless in the return game in Port of Spain. Their other games saw Haiti blasting them 4-0 in Port of Spain and although they stunned the home team in Port-au-Prince with a winning 4-2 scoreline, it made no difference to TT's progress. Haiti advanced from the group but fell to eventual qualifiers, El Salvador 1-0 in the play-off after having to play three games.

Trying to shake off the disappointment of Haiti four years earlier in 1974, TT headed for a place in the Argentine finals in 1978.

Once again, it was not to be. After getting past Barbados, they were booted out by Suriname after three matches. Results of 1-all and 2-all meant nothing after Suriname recorded a 3-2 victory in the deciding game.

The 1982 finals in Spain again saw Haiti proving to be TT's obstacle. The Haitians won the first leg 2-0 and although losing the second leg 1-0, did much better than TT which could only draw goalless on two occasions with the Netherlands.

In 1986, Grenada withdrew from the competition, leaving TT with an automatic place in the second round. But TT had no answer to eventual qualifiers Costa Rica who beat them 3-0 and drew 1-1 while the United States also had 2-1 and 1-0 wins to boot TT out of the competition.

This series was followed by the Strike Squad tragedy although several members of the team survived to be part of the 1994 tournament.

Among them were Yorke who had since joined Aston Villa in the English Premiership and Latapy and Lewis, both of whom had also secured professional contracts in Portugal.

Also still with the team from the Strike Squad were the goalkeeper Maurice, captain Clayton Morris, Brian Williams, Kerry Jamerson, Hutson Charles, Marvin Faustin, Philbert Jones.

Coach Cummings had been dismissed by the TTFA following the loss to the USA and a number of new coaches had been tried.

Among them were German Bernhard Zgoll and his assistant Francisco Ramirez.

Nevertheless by the time the team took the field against Barbados in their first game, it was the locals Muhammad Isa (coach) and Wayne Lawson (assistant) along with Leslie Marcelle (manager) and David Cumberbatch (pyhsio) who were in charge.

Trinidad and Tobago dominated games against Barbados winning 2-1 and 3-0 with Latapy and Charles scoring in the first game while Faustin, Jamerson and Lewis were the marksmen in the second.

A 1-2 home loss to Jamaica in the next game, left the TTFA in panic and Brazilian Clovis D'Oliviera was brought in as technical director leading up to the return game against the Jamaicans, In addition manager Marcelle had been replaced by Sedley Joseph while Edgar Vidale was made his assistant.

But none of this made any difference. Needing to win the game to move on to the next round, TT had to come from behind to earn a 1-1 draw, thanks to Brian Haynes' goal.

The performance of the Jamaicans ought to have been noted as four years later, in 1998, they would make the greatest impact on the game in the region.

With three teams representing the zone in France, the United States and Mexico continued to dominate and again finished first and second in the playoffs.

But it was Jamaica who surprised the world by earning the third place in France.

Popularly referred to as the Reggae Boyz, the Caribbean team had acquired the services of Brazilian Professor Rene Simoes, who immediately stamped his authority on the game with a hardline, no nonsense approach which endeared him to the Jamaican public and made Jamaica the first english-speaking team to reach the finals.

Even so, there was a lot of expectations for Trinidad and Tobago.

The Football Association had adopted a more businesslike approach to the team's preparation.

FCOTT (Football Company of Trinidad and Tobago) was established to raise funds with \$20 million as the target.

In addition, Everard 'Gally' Cummings, the man who took the Strike Squad within one point of Italy was back along with another local boy Kenny Joseph.

When TT lost 1-0 to Costa Rica on September 1, 1996, Yugoslavian Zoran Vranes was coach. The loss saw a reshuffle and Brazilian Sebastiao Perreira de Araujo took over as coach and Cummings as technical director.

This had little impact as the team drew once and lost four other games.

At the end of the series TT had used five coaches including German Jochem Figge, Joseph, Cummings, Vranes, de Araujo but had failed to win one match.

Despite having eight professionals, TT lost to Costa Rica in a pathetic display in its opening game. Fingers pointed everywhere, including at Vranes and players Russell Latapy, Dwight Yorke, and Clint Marcelle, the senior professionals.

The TTFA responded by sacking Vranes and Marcelle.

Cummings and Brazilian Sebastiao Pereira de Araujo were in charge for the next game against Guatemala. But nothing changed as the team gave another depressing display in a 1-all draw. So fed up was the crowd that they threw missiles on the field at the Hasely Crawford Stadium.

Leonson Lewis, now at the twilight of his career was brought in for the next game against US in Virginia but this again made no difference to the result as TT lost 2-0.

"I don't know what to say," Brian Williams, the former Strike Squad defender was quoted.

Frustration was stepping in. "The basis of national selection is unfair," reported young defender Marvin Andrews. "Pros and the locals are not combining. On top of that the efforts of the pros do not compare to that of the local players."

"Some of the players were not angry enough after the game," said parttime captain David Nakhid who was based in Lebanon "and that made me very angry."

When the United States scored the only goal of the game in their return encounter, it seemed like the whole world was against TT.

As far as the fans were concerned, TT were undone by poor officiating by Barbadian referee Mark Forde who had allowed Joe Max Moore's goal, scored after a quick kick free.

Swiss based Jerren Nixon was particularly unhappy. "Everybody who mattered seemed to be against us today."

Former Barbadian player Adrian Donovan had some strong words for TT. "TT's problem was not the referee, they should instead concentrate on why they had five foreign coaches in the last four years."

Arnold Dwarika summed up the effort. "What made matters difficult was the technical staff because they were not sure what they were doing - they were just guessing and hoping for us to win for them to claim credit...it was plain confusion."

At the time of writing TT was preparing for its bid to reach Japan and Korea in 2002 with a team that again included Latapy and Yorke, now season campaigners, backed up by a group of young players, now performing in the professional ranks.

Among these are goalkeeper Shaka Hislop, Ansil Elcock, Marvin Andrews, Stern John, Dale Saunders and Dennis Lawrence.

The Story of Football in Trinidad and Tobago 1893 -2000

Chapter 14

The Shell Caribbean Cup

Although Trinidad and Tobago dominated Caribbean football, it was not always easy. Even at the height of its infamous World Cup qualifying campaign in 1989 with the Strike Squad under coach Everald 'Gally' Cummings, the team had problems getting into the semifinals. That team included Latapy, Yorke, Lewis, Morris, Faustin and Jamerson. Yet TT just squeezed through to the finals on goal difference after losing a key preliminary match 0-2 to Guadeloupe. A double from Yorke, the second a brilliantly taken free-kick one minute from time, helped TT to edge Grenada to take the title in its inaugural year.

One year later, TT was under a new technical staff in Alvin Corneal and Edgar Vidale but Yorke, Lewis and Latapy were all absent while pursuing careers in the professional ranks. There were a number of new faces in the squad including Timothy Haynes, Peter Alfred, Alvin Thomas and Larry Joseph but the Strike Squad core was still there.

Unfortunately, although TT qualified to meet Martinique in the final, an insurrection by the Jamaat al Muslimeem on the day of the final forced an abandonment.

Latapy and Lewis returned in 1991 with the former proving his versatility by scoring five goals in the preliminaries. Again TT barely made the next round, losing 1-2 to St Lucia in their final qualifying game and having to depend on goal difference to reach the final against Jamaica. Jamaica then made their home advantage count by winning 2-0 to record their first lien on the trophy.

TT would regain the trophy at home in 1992, beating the title holders 3-1 in the final. The combination of Lewis and Latapy proved too much for the other teams with Lewis scoring seven and Latapy five goals.

Apart from the pair, TT also had a new coach in Muhammad Isa while Marcelle who had gained a pro contract in Portugal was back in the team.

TT was also on the verge of its preparation for the World Cup campaign and several of the Strike Squad players were back.

Results of 7-1 against Antigua, 2-1 against Martinique, 1-0 against Suriname in the qualifiers and 1-0 to Cuba in the semis turned out to be a sign of things to come and TT duly obliged with a 3-1 win to regain the trophy from Jamaica.

Cummings returned for 1993 and Jamaica hosted the tournament. An opening 4-1 win against St Vincent and the Grenadines promised much but the sight of Yorke limping off the field with a strained thigh was an ominous sign. And it proved to be as TT limped to third place - their worst performance in the tournament.

They bounced back in style in 1994. They scored a dramatic last second equalizer against Suriname then won in sudden death in the semifinals before going on to crush Martinique 7-2 in the finals.

It was a wonderful weekend for Trinidad and Tobago whose Brian Lara scored a record breaking 375 against England to register the highest Test cricket score. Nakhid, one of only two professionals on the team was the inspiration, winning the MVP.

Trinidad and Tobago would then go on to win for three consecutive years.

They slammed surprising finalist St Vincent and the Grenadines 5-0 in 1995 with Dwarika's double and goals from Eve, St Louis and Marcelle, too much for the underdogs in the Cayman islands in 1995.

And when they returned to Trinidad for the tournament the following year, the host beat Cuba 2-0 to take the title with goals from Dwarika and Jerren Nixon.

With ANtigua hosting the tournament for the first time in 1997, St Kitts/Nevis were Trinidad and Tobago's opponents in the finals but a double from Peter prosper and goals from Nixon and Marvin Andrews made it a hatric for TT.

It was always going to be a confrontation of major proportions in 1998 when Jamaica were Trinidad and Tobago's opponents in the finals.

The Jamaicans were enjoying one of their finest seasons under Brazilian coach Rene Simoes and although they took things easy in a 1-0 win over Antigua and Barbuda in the semifinal clash, they were ready for Trinidad and Tobago who beat Haiti 4-1 in their semifinal game.

But the Reggae Boyz would end the run of the champions with a 2-1 win that while not convincing showed that they were undisputed champs of the region. The following year though, would see the title back in soca land as TT beat Cuba 2-1 in the finals with goals from Anthony Rougier and Stern John.

1989

Qualification Round

TT 11 v Aruba 0

TT 3 v French Guyana 1

TT 2 v St Kitts Nevis 0

TT 0 v Grenada 1

TT and Grenada advance to championship round from Zone A and are joined by St Vincent and the Grenadines and the Netherland Antilles from Zone B and Guadeloupe from Zone C along with host Barbados.

Team - Earl Carter, Michael Maurice, Clayton Morris (Capt), Brian Williams, Dexter Francis, Marvin Faustin, Hutson Charles, Russell Latapy, Leonson Lewis, Philbert Jones, Dwight Yorke, Kerry Jamerson, Paul Elliot Allen, Ricky Nelson, Marlon Morris, Maurice Alibey

TT 3 (P. Jones 2, M. Morris) Barbados 0

TT 0 Guadeloupe 2

Barbados 1 Guadeloupe 0

TT advance to finals on better goal difference after each team win one game.

Grenada top Group A with 3 pts from win against St Vincent and the Grenadines and draw with Netherlands Antilles.

Final: TT 2 (D. Yorke 2) Grenada 1 (Wayne Hood)

1990

Group A

TT 5 (Alfred 2, Joseph 2, Elliot ALlen) v Grenada 0

TT 0 v Jamaica 0

Grenada 0 v Jamaica 0

(TT advance to finals)

Group B

Martinique beat St Vincent and the Grenadines and draw with Barbados.

Team - Maurice, Morris, Ronnie Simmons, Dexter Francis, Williams, Alvin Thomas, Larry Joseph, Alibey, Timothy Haynes, Peter Alfred, Elliot Allen, Jamerson

Tropical storm Arthur forced cancellation of second round games.

FINALS: TT v Martinique

TT National Stadium (Aborted due to Muslimeem Insurrection)

1991

Championship Round (Group B)

VENUE: Kingston, Jamaica

Team - Maurice, Dexter Absolum, Dexter Lee, Kelvin Jones, Kirk Solomon, Morris, Faustin, Anthony Rougier, Latapy, Alvin Thomas, Elliot ALlen, Anton Thomas, Charles, L. Joseph, Jones, Skeene, Lewis Cyprian Thomas.

TT 7 (Latapy 2, Lewis 2, D. Skeene, P. Elliot-Allen, Anton Thomas) Dominican Republic 0

TT 1 (Latapy) v Martinique 0

TT 1 (D. Skeene) St Lucia 2 (Trevor Cadette, Michael Edmund)

Semifinals: TT 3 (Latapy 2, P. Jones) Guyana 1 (L. Laing)

Jamaica 2 (P. Davis, R. Reid) St Lucia 0

FINALS: TT 0 Jamaica 2 (Winston Anglin, Paul Davis)

1992

(Venue TT)

Team - Maurice, Morris, Lee, Yorke, Latapy, Marcelle, Francis, Jamerson, Faustin, Kelvin Jones, Charles, Anton Thomas

Group A

TT 7 (Leonson Lewis 3, Latapy 2, Marcelle, Clayton Morris) Antigua 0

TT 2 (Lewis, Hutson Charles) Martinique 1 (Jean Hubert Sophie)

TT 1 (Lewis) Suriname 0

Jamaica and Cuba advance from Group B

Semifinals

TT 1 (Lewis) Cuba 0

Jamaica 1 Martinique 0

FINALS

TT 3 (Lewis, Latapy, Marcelle) Jamaica 1 (Hector Wright)

1993

SQUAD - Maurice, Ross Russell, Francis, Garth Pollonais, Lee, Faustin, Brian Williams, Colvin Hutchinson, Dwayne Demming, Lester Felician, Dean Pacheco, Yorke, Peter Lewis, Shawn Boney, Terry St Louis, Alvin Thomas, Arnold Dwarika,

Group B (Montego Bay, Jamaica - May - June 1993)

TT 4 (Dean Pacheco 2, Lester Felician, Dwight Yorke) St Vincent and the Grenadines 0

TT 1 (T. St Louis) v St Lucia 1 (K. Armstrong)

TT 2 (St Louis, H. Charles) Martinique 3 (Jean Michael Modestin, Jean Hubert Sophie, Jean marc Emica)

Semifinals

TT 0 v Jamaica 3 (Winston Anglin, Paul Davis, Roderick Reid)

FINALS: Martinique 0 v Jamaica 0 (Martinique win 6-5 on penalty kicks)

Third Place playoff: TT 3 (Arnold Dwarika, Lester Felician, Colvin Hutchinson) St Kitts/Nevis 2 (Austin Huggins, Alexander Riley)

1994

SQUAD - Russell, Clayton Ince, Dexter Cyrus, Angus Eve, David Nakhid, Francis, Faustin, Jamerson, H. Charles, Rougier, Sherwyn Julien, Dwarika, Jerren Nixon, Ancil Elcock, Dexter Lee, Pacheco, Alvin Thomas, Richard Theodore

Group A (Trinidad and Tobago - April 1994)

TT 5 (D. Cyrus 4, M. Faustin) Dominica 0

TT 0 Guadeloupe 0

TT 2 (D. Pacheco, M. Faustin) Barbados 0

Martinique and Suriname advance from Group B

Semifinal (1)

TT 3 (Faustin 2, Dwarika) Surname 2 (Clyde Tol, Ramon Kampenaar)

TT wins in sudden death

Semifinal (2)

Martinique 4 Guadeloupe 2

Final

TT 7 (Charles 2, Pacheco 2, Eve 2, Thomas) Martinique 2 (Fondelot, Jean Hubert Sophie)

1995

Team - Russell, Hayden Thomas, Alvin Thomas, Marvin Faustin, Richard Theodore, Elcock, Shawn Garcia, S. Julien, Dexter Francis (capt), Terry St Louis, Dean Pacheco, Nakhid, Clint Marcelle, Leonson Lewis, Dwarika, Cyrus, Eve, Alvin Boisson

Hosted jointly in Jamaica, Cayman Islands (July 19-30, 1995)

Group B

TT 2 (A. Eve) Cuba 0

TT 5 (Dwarika 2, Lewis 2, Eve) St Lucia 0

TT 0 Jamaica 1

Semifinal (1)

TT 9 (Lewis 3, Dwarika 2, Eve 2, Cyrus 2) Cayman Islands 2

Semifinal (2)

St Vincent & The Grenadines 3 (A. Hinds, R. Jack, T. Prince) Cuba 2 (O. Hernandez, D. Azcuy)

Final

TT 5 (Dwarika 2, Eve, St Louis, Marcelle, OG) St Vincent and the Grenadines 0

1996

SQUAD: Ross Russell, Richard Theodore, Craig Demmin, Ansil Elcock, Anthony Rougier, Marvin Faustin, Russell Latapy, Clint Marcelle, Terry St Louis, Angus Eve, Jerren Nixon, Arnold Dwarika, Stern John, Sherwyn Julien. (Coach Kenny Joseph)

Hosted in Trinidad and Tobago. (May 24 - June 7 1996)

Group A

TT 1 (Latapy) Jamaica 0

TT 3 (Rougier 1, Latapy 2) Suriname 0

TT 5 (Latapy 3, Marcelle, Dwarika) St Kitts/Nevis 1

Semifinal (1)

TT 2 (Dwarika, S. John) Martinique 1

Semifinal (2)

Cuba 4 (L. Martinez 2, H. Font, J. Sotolongo) Suriname 0

Final

TT 2 (Nixon, Dwarika) Cuba 0

1997

TT team - Clayton Ince, Marvin Andrews, Sherwyn Julien, David Nakhid, Dale Saunders, Marlon Austin, Lyndon Andrews, Colvin Hutchinson, Angus Eve, Peter Prosper, Jerren Nixon. (Bertille St Clair - coach).

Hosted in Antigua - Barbuda /St Kitts (July 4 -13)

Group A

TT 1 (D. Nakhid) Martinique 2

TT 3 (J. Nixon 2, D. Nakhid) St Kitts Nevis 0

Semifinal (1)

TT 1 (M. Andrews) Jamaica 1 (Whitmore)

TT advances 4-2 on penalty kicks (Hutchinson, Nakhid, Nixon, Julien)

Semifinal (2)

St Kitts/Nevis 2 (K. Gumbs 2) Grenada 1 (A. Modiste)

Final

TT 4 (P. Prosper 2, J. Nixon, M. Andrews) St Kitts/Nevis 0

1998

SQUAD: D. Nakhid (capt), S. John, Clint Marcelle, A. Elcock, A. Rougier, M. Andrews, Sheldon Thomas, Clayton Ince, Richard Goddard, Joseph Peters, Shurland David, Lyndon Andrews, Kermott Jemmott, Irasto Knights, Keyeno Thomas, Rodney Dennis, Sherwyn Julien, Dale Saunders. B. St Clair (coac), R. Brathwaithe (man).

Hosted in TT and Jamaica July 22 – 31

Group A

TT 3 (I. Knights 2, S. John) Antigua Barbuda 2 (R. Christian, V. Edwards)

TT 2 (S. John) Martinique 1 (F. Sorbett)

TT 8 (S. John 4, D. Nakhid 2, I Knights 2) Dominica 0

Semifinal (1)

Jamaica 1 (O. Lowe) Antigua and Barbuda 0

Semifinal (2)

TT 4 (S. John 2, I Knights 2) Haiti 1

Final

Jamaica 2 (W. McDonald, D. Seewell) TT 1 (I. Knights)

1999

TT: Clayton Ince, Michael McComie, Shurland David, Ansil Elcock, Marvin Andrews, Anthony Rougier, Travis Mulraine, Lyndon Andrews, Mickey Trot man, Hector Sam, Derek King, Sherwyn Julien, Arnold Dwarika, Stokely Mason, Carlos Edwards, Stern John, Hector Sam, Angus Eve, Peter Prosper.

New name of tournament - Copa Caribe. Now related to the Copa de Oro (Gold Cup) , a branch of CONCACAF.

26 teams took part during the qualifying stages with five teams moving into the finals. Those qualifying were Jamaica (defending champions), TT (host), Guadeloupe, Grenada, Cuba, St Kitts & Nevis, Haiti, Brazil U20s (guest)

Hosted in Trinidad and Tobago June 3 – 13

Group A

TT 1 (Stern John) Jamaica 0

TT 7 (Peter Prosper 3, A. Eve, A. Dwarika, L. Andrews, M. Trot man) Grenada 0

TT 3 (S. Mason 2, P. Prosper) Guadeloupe 2

Semifinal (1)

TT 6 (A. Dwarika, M. Andrews, A. Eve, M. Trot man, S. Mason, S. John) Haiti 1

Final

TT 2 (A. Rougier, S. John) Cuba 1 (S. Prado)

Copa Caribe 2001

Venue: TT

Team: Clayton Ince, M. McCommie, Anton Pierre, Trent Noel, Angus Eve, Nigel Pierre, S. Maspn, B. Rahim, D. Saunders, A. Dwarika, R. Crrington, C. Edwards, D. Lawrence, Avery John, Marvin Andrews, Gary Glasgow, A. Elcock, M. Trotman, S. John, L. Andrews. (I. Porterfield - coach)

May 15 - T&T 5 (S. John 2, Dwarika, Carrington, Rahim) Barbados 0

May 17 - T&T 2 (Eve, Rahim) Jamaica 1

May 19 - T&T 1 (D. Lawrence) Martinique 2

Semifinal

May 22 - T&T 2 (Dwarika, John) Cuba 0

Final

May 25 - T&T 3 (Saunders, Rahim, Dwarika) Haiti 0

The Gold Cup

1991

Venue - USA

TT: Anthony Clarke, Michael Maurice, Dexter lee, Ronnie Simmons, Kelvin Jones, Marvin Faustin, Clayton Morris, Kirk Solomon, Alvin Thomas, HUTson Charles, Paul Elliot Allen, Kerry Jamerson, Russell Latapy, Larry Joseph, Dexter Skeene, Leonson Lewis, Philbert Jones, Brian Haynes. (Coach E. Vidale)

TT 1 (L.Lewis) USA 2 (B. Murray, M. Balbao)

TT 2 (L. Lewis, A. Thomas) Costa Rica 1 (H. Medford)

TT 0 Guatemala 1 (L.Espel)

1996 (January)

Venue - USA

TT team: R. Russell, M. McComie, A. Elcock, R. Theodore, M. Faustin, C. Demmin, D. Francis, R. Latapy, D. Nakhid, A. Dwarika, A. Rougier, E. Wise, T. St Louis, A. Thomas, L. Andrews, D. Yorke, S. Julien, A. Eve.(Coach Z. Vranes)

TT 2 (R. Latapy 2) El Salvador 3 (Diaz 2, M. Guenfuegos
TT 2 (A. Dwarika 2) USA 3 (E. Wynalda 2, J. Max-Moore)

1998 (February)

TT team: Clayton Ince, R.Russell, A. Rougier, A. Elcock, M. Andrews, S. Julien, D. Saunders, D. Nakhid, S. Mason, Shurland David, Avery John, J. Nixon, C. Marcelle, Stern John, P. Prosper.
(Coach. B. St Clair)

TT 3 (S. John 2, J. Nixon) Honduras 1 (C. Pavon)
Mexico 4 (L. Hernandez 2, F. Palencia, R. Ramirez TT 2 (J. Nixon, o.g)

2000 (February)

Venue: San Diego, USA:

TT: C. Ince, R. Russell, Derek King, S. David, A. Elcock, S. Mason, M. Trotman, A. Dwarika, R. Latapy, D. Nakhid, A. Rougier, M. Andrews, B. Rahim, A. Eve, R. Mauge, E. Wise, J. Nixon, D. Yorke.(Coach B. St Clair, R. Brathwaithe - manager)

TT 0 Mexico 4 (R. Marquez, L. Hernandez, F. Palencia, o.g)
Guatemala 2 TT 4 (R. Latapy, A. Dwarika, D. Nakhid, D. Yorke)
TT 2 (A. Dwarika, M. Trotman) Costa Rica 1 (W/. Sunsig)

Semifinal

Canada 1 (M. Watson) TT 0

The Martinez Shield

Frederick M. Martinez was a genial, enterprising salesman - but above all a man of perspective and of vision. He observed the plethora of athletic talent in the colony and thought that he should offer a shield for inter-club athletics.

Unfortunately, for some unknown reasons, the inter-club sports was held only once - in 1908. The shield was won on that occasion by Shamrock which was represented by Eric M. Legge, then the Comptroller of Custom and Excise.

Legge who also represented the colony in football between 1908 and 1915, handed the shield over to Albert Henry Cipriani, after his one year had ended.

Cipriani, who was Martinez' agent in Trinidad left the colony in 1921 and handed the shield back to Shamrock with the suggestion that it should be kept until a sport worthy of it was identified.

On the inauguration of intercolonial football in 1923, the club offered the trophy to the TAFA which accepted it.

Who won the Martinez Shield

1923

TT 5 pts Demerara 1 pt
TT 1 Demerara 0
TT 0 Demerara 0
TT 2 Demerara 0

1925

(Demerara) TT 4pts Demerara 2 pts

1926

(Trinidad) TT 5 pts Demerara 1pt

1928

(In Demerara) TT 4 pts Demerara 2pts

1929

(In Trinidad) Demerara 6pts TT 4 pts
TT 0 Demerara 0
TT 0 Demerara 1
TT 3 Demerara 1
TT 1 Demerara 1
TT 0 Demerara 1

Demerara wins Martinez Shield with two wins against TT. TT wins once and two games drawn. Barbados competes for the first time but is completely outplayed.

Demerara also won games against Sporting Club 1-0 and South 3-0 and lost to Casuals 1-0 and Maple 2-3.

TT team - Hart, Pogson, Charles, Agostini, Farrell (Capt), Jack, Daniel, Roach, H. Achong, Brown, E. Achong.

1931

(In Demerara) Demerara 7 pts TT 5pts, Barbados played for the first time 0 pt

First triangular series for the Martinez Shield played in British Guiana

TT team - I. Hart, A. Charles, A. Maynard, S. Agostini, A. Halfide, L. Carter, W. Brown, G. McClure, T. Sales, R. Lewis, N. Pogson, H. Achong, S. Thompson, A. Meillac, E. Arrindell, A. Daniel, H. Strachan (capt).

Scores

TT 7 (Achong 4, Daniel, Browne, Carter) Barbados 1 (Gittens)
TT 1 (Achong) Demerara 1 (Nascimento)
Demerara 9 Barbados 0
TT 5 (Agostini, Achong, Halfide, Carter, Thompson) Barbados 1
Demerara 7 Barbados 0
Demerara 2 TT 0
Demerara win the series to take Shield

1932

(In Barbados) Demerara 5pts TT 4 pts Barbados 3 pts
TT - A Wilkinson (capt), F. Pierre, A Maynard, A. Charles, G. Remy, M. Achong, G. Knaggs, S. Henderson, L. Carter, H. Achong, F. Solomon, R. Wishart, T. Mclean, C. Mathurin, B. Thompson

Demerara 1 TT 0
Barbados 1 TT 0
Demerara 1 Barbados 0
Demerara 2 Barbados 2
TT 2 (Achong, Charles) Demerara 1
TT 3 (Charles 2, Achong 1) Barbados 1

1933

(In Trinidad) Trinidad 7 pts Demerara 5 pts
TT - R.S. Grant, Anderson Merry, Agostini Tench Angoy, Wilkinson (capt), Hadden, McClure, L. Bradshaw, H. Achong, E. Achong, N. Lewis,, J. Lyon, B. Daniel, A. Stollmeyer, M. Rignault, J. Alkins.

TT 1 Demerara 1
Demerara 2 Barbados 0
Demerara 0 TT 1 (N. Lewis)
Demerara 5 Barbados 2
TT 3 (Alkins, Lewis, Daniel) Barbados 1
TT 6 (Wilkinson, Alkins (2), Daniel, Lewis, Bradshaw) Barbados 0

The Story of Football in Trinidad and Tobago

Chapter 15

Aftershocks

The aftershocks of Trinidad and Tobago's failure to qualify for the World Cup in Italy 1990, were far and wide.

Austin Jack Warner fell just short of being tarred and feathered as the nation sought answers for the biggest sporting disappointment in its history.

Never had a country reached so close and frittered away its chances of qualifying for a World Cup finals.

The unrelenting pressure over the overcrowding of the stadium and the overselling of tickets, left Warner with no choice but to resign.

In a matter of weeks, he had moved from being a hero, on the verge of taking his country to the World Cup to a criminal, hounded by the media to give answers for all that had gone wrong during the match.

When his decision to oversell 5,000 tickets was made public, Warner became even more vulnerable.

The public perception was that he had pocketed the proceeds from the sale of the extra tickets.

But an audit by Ernst and Young, one of the country's leading accounting companies, revealed that the tickets were all accounted for.

Warner revealed that the collective debt of the TTFA, the expenses to take care of the Strike Squad campaign, the overwhelming demand for tickets and his own conviction that capacity at the stadium could be expanded by, for example, covering the cycle track and putting chairs on it and putting temporary bleachers in an area normally reserved for the Police band and asking fans to leave their large coolers at home, were among the reasons why he did what he did.

Almost simultaneously with his resignation, the government announced that it had appointed retired Queen's Counsel Lionel Seemungal to investigate the overcrowding and overselling of tickets for the game. The Commission, for some strange reason, was also required to investigate the overcrowding at Carnival events.

However, in spite of several sessions in which Warner's name figured prominently, the inquiry was aborted after nearly 20 sittings.

In his biography 'Upwards Through the Night,' which was published in 1998, Warner identified a number of rules which he broke while promoting the game and gave the reasons why he did so. Firstly, he permitted the sale of alcohol when FIFA rules prohibited this. He explained that two of the team's top sponsors were Angostura - a rum company and the Caribbean Development Company which produced beers.

Instead of 60 reporters, Warner accredited 154 persons - almost three times the number. He claimed that he saw the match as an ideal chance to promote Trinidad and Tobago to the rest of the world. He also sold 43,000 instead of the 30,000 less five percent which FIFA had instructed him to do because the game was 'high risk.'

He said some 10,000 tickets were presold to Corporate Trinidad long before they were placed on the open market.

He had done this to enable TTFA to pay off a debt to Concacaf and to meet the financial requirements of the Strike squad that amounted to some \$3.7 million.

Warner announced his resignation from the TTFA at the annual prize giving function in December and immediately started his campaign to head CONCACAF.

After a most volatile campaign and a hostile meeting in Guatemala City on April 28, 1990, he became the first Caribbean man to be elected president of the organisation, replacing Mexican Soria Joaquin Terrazas.

Between 1983 and 1990 when he was appointed to head CONCACAF, he had also moved up the ranks in FIFA from the CFU's representative on the executive to the number six man, placing him among the most influential men in the football world.

It would take some time but the last four years of the millennium would see Warner using his influence to move Trinidad and Tobago into the footballing capital of CONCACAF.

But it was a long way off in 1990 when the population viewed the Association as 'the enemy,' following on the country's failure to qualify for Italy and the controversy surrounding that.

Peter O' Connor, the president since 1985, made way for Major Ralph Brown who lasted just one year before he was replaced by chief of Immigration Joe Bodkyn, who lasted even less time, before being replaced by Oliver Camps.

During Bodkyn's term, a tripartite committee was set up to manage the sport.

This committee comprised Bodkyn, Terrence O Neal Lewis, Peter Rampersad, Lennox Sirjuesingh (TTFA), Richard Brathwaite, Sedley Joseph, Neville Chance and Alvin Henderson (Ministry of Sport) and Ken Attale, Anthony Salloum, Peter Knaggs, Dave Francois (business).

Their mission to save to save the country's football started with the knowledge the that Association had a \$2.65 million debt.

Part of this was \$55,000 Swiss Francs which was owed to FIFA and which had to be paid before the country could play football under FIFA.

Another \$100,000 was owed to Concacaf.

The Association reported that it had accepted an offer from an anonymous 'Godfather' to pay the FIFA debt and Trinidad and Tobago resumed competition.

With Alvin Corneal, the former national player who was once deemed personal non grata by the Association, appointed coach, the team played two matches against an East German Under 23 team with both games drawn.

Crystal Palace, the top English first division club also visited for two games. They drew 2-2 and lost 4-0, with Leonson Lewis scoring all four goals.

Lewis, incidentally was the Strike Squad's left winger but for the Palace game, he was moved to striker by Edgar Vidale who was standing in for Corneal who was overseas.

Corneal returned for a highly publicised revenge match against the USA but once the local team was beaten 3-0, he was fired and Vidale appointed.

A team from Russia also visited and won 2-0 but the most obvious sight was the absence of the fans. Even the Shell Caribbean Cup in which the local team qualified for the finals, failed to attract them.

That final was never played, however, as it had to be aborted as a fundamentalist group, the Jamaat Al Muslimeem staged a revolution in the country on the day of the finals.

Trinidad and Tobago finished runners-up in the 1991 Shell Caribbean Cup and then won the tournament in 1992, beating Jamaica 3-1.

Their performance in '91 earned them qualification for the inaugural Concacaf Gold Cup in the United States.

Eight teams took part with Trinidad and Tobago grouped with Costa Rica, Guatemala and the hosts.

After losing to the US 1-2, with both US goals coming in the last five minutes, T&T beat Costa Rica 2-1 and with two minutes left against Guatemala, they seemed headed for the semifinals. But as was the case against the USA, they again gave away a late goal and lost 0-1.

But then national football seemed to dip.

The team gave its worst ever showing in the Shell Cup tournament, placing third in 1993.

And with the suspicions of the 1989 failure, still clouding the atmosphere, the team started its campaign for the '94 World Cup in the USA with the theme '94 for Sure.'

But this failed to materialize as after four matches against regional teams Barbados (win 2-1 and 3-0) and Jamaica (loss 2-1 and draw 1-1), it was all over.

Brian Ghent, an unapologetic critic of the Association who became a member of the Finance Committee described the situation as 'extremely rough.'

In a Guardian interview in 1993 Ghent stated: "Because of what happened in 1989, people have begun to see what could have been achieved. And as a result, the Association came under close scrutiny. I feel the instability of the last few years have been a necessary evil and it might have been necessary to take two steps backwards to move forward."

Warner also spoke out describing Trinidad and Tobago's football as being in shambles. He said crowd support was non-existent and that people were depressed.

Coach Cummings who had returned on secondment from the government where he was now a coach was blamed for the dismal performance. His response was: 'I am no magician.'

Even so the tripartite committee which was set up to manage the sport made some progress. It was able to eliminate some of the negativity attached to the sport and there was a general returning of confidence among the clubs and business.

After a series of false starts, clubs and administrators came together and agreed on a plan in November 1993.

A new constitution expressed the ideals of one club, one vote which helped to ease much of the tension.

And there were some developments in the early part of 1994 to offer some optimism. Richard Jackman, a reputable businessman who was appointed to head the TTFA's finance committee announced that several creditors had agreed to write off their debts.

This amounted to just around \$1 million.

And later in the year, the Football Company of Trinidad and Tobago (FCOTT) was born.

This organisation included some of the top men in the business fraternity.

Among them were: Henry Sealey, executive director of UNIT Trust, Camps, Ameer Edoe, chief executive West Indies Stockbrokers Ltd, Richard Espinet, chief executive Maritime General, Nicki Innis, Marketing manager, Fernandes Distillers, Terrence O Neil Lewis, chief executive Agriculture Development Bank, Errol Mahabir, business executive, Sam Martin, managing director, ALGICO, Tim Nafziger, managing director Carib, Lesley-Vilain Clarke, administrative officer, Maritime Fidelity Finance and Leasing Company with Warner as technical advisor and Peter O Connor, manager.

The company was responsible for funding and administering and was to have a judicious marriage with the TTFA which was responsible for the development and technical aspects of the game..

FCOTT was further given the responsibility of managing and promoting the national team for the France World Cup in 1998 and the Olympic team for 1996.

At the launching of the body, the Board said it was aiming to raise \$14 million to achieve its task. As part of its restructuring process, the TTFA relieved all technical staff, including Everald Cummings who was on secondment from the Ministry of Sport, of their posts and a foreigner, Germany's Jochem Figge was made technical director .

But Figge's stay did not last long. After four months, he packed his bags and left, claiming that his recommendation continuously got stuck on the desk of Dwight Day, the TTFA secretary.

He was replaced by Yugoslavian Zoran Vranes. Vranes would make way for Brazilian Sebastiao Perera de Arajuo in 1996.

But there was more controversy as the Association of Football Supporters (AFSOTT) and a group calling themselves the Concerned Clubs (CC) filed objections against FCOTT which had applied to the President to have the company declared a charitable and/or non profit organisation.

The objectors claimed that the aims and objectives of FCCOT were generally the same of the TTFA. The company later legitimized its status under the Companies Ordinance, Chapter 31, No. I, making it a limited liability company.

Some six months later, FCOTT would blame its failure to acquire charitable status which would have allowed contributors to gain tax concessions, as one of the reasons why it went broke and the organisation went dormant for sometime.

The two major steps forward in 1994, however, were the announcement that the Association had signed a US \$5 million contract with sportswear manufacturers Umbro International and an injection of \$200,000 in prize money by a local company for domestic football.

Umbro agreed to sponsor the national team with equipment and apparel not exceeding US \$100,000 per year until 1998 when the figure was upped to \$150,000.

Umbro also agreed to pay FCOTT US \$50,000 if the team qualified for France.

It was one of several major sponsorship that was to impact positively during the rebuilding process. The second success story came from the local beer manufacturers, Carib, who agreed to sponsor the National league to the value of \$200,000.

The eventual winners Police, collected \$100,000 - the biggest ever in the league's history.

The other teams who took part in that historical competition were: Defence Force, Superstar Rangers, ECM Motown, Malta Carib Alcons, Falcons, Memphis, Mathura United, Petrotrin Forest Reserve and St Clair Coaching School.

Police also won the FA Trophy and Team of the year award.

The tournament was the start of a professional trend in the country where large sums of money were introduced on the domestic scene.

Following on the heels of Carib's contribution in 1994, the first semiprofessional league was started in 1995 and by 1999, there was professional club football in the country.

The prize money in 1995 was again \$200,000.

Defence Force, as they did throughout the 70s and 80s continued their dominance. They won the semi-pro title in '95, '96 and '96 before Joe Public, a club owned by Warner dethroned them in 1998, the final year of the semi-pro league.

The other teams which played in the first semi-professional league were: Police, Point Fortin Civic Centre, Superstar Rangers, United Petrotrin, Caledonia AIA, Memphis, Malta Carib Alcons, Les Mathura United, ECM Motown, Doc's Engineering Falcons and Bertille St Clair Coaching School. There was even better news in 1999 when the semiprofessional league made way for the first full season of professional football in the country.

Craven A, a Jamaican cigarette company which had sponsored the last year of the semipro league initially agreed to sponsor the competition for a three-year period with a value of \$4.7 million.

However, the company pulled out of the Trinidad market midway through the tournament, following a merger between the company's major shareholders British American Tobacco (BAT) West Indian Tobacco Company (Witco) and Rothman's International, which controlled the Cigarette Company of Jamaica, producers of the Craven A brand.

Nevertheless, \$500,000 was what League champions Defence Force collected for registering the first lien on the professional crown.

They could not stop the 'eastern lions' Joe Public from winning the Team of the year title though as the Warner team captured the Mt d'or Big Four title, the President's Cup, placed second in the FA Trophy which they lost to W Connection, and was second in the league.

In addition their start player Arnold Dwarika won the Player of the year.

The final competition for the millennium saw a relatively new team, W Connection, domination competition. The southern based outfit was bang on target capturing all the major prizes. They took the \$500,000 league title, won the FA Trophy and their skipper Reynold Carrington was named the Player of the year.

They also won the team of the year award. while their coach Stuart Charles Fevrier was voted top coach.

During the 90s, a Caribbean Professional League (CPFL) was also launched in 1994 with three local teams Trinity Professionals, Tobago Young Pros and Sanicup AIA Caledonia traveling

throughout the region to play Lambada (Bdos), GT Cobras (Guy), Hairoun Lions (St Vincent) and Harbor View and Western Pros (Jca).

Trinity Professionals, which was coached by Cummings and included national players Marvin Faustin (capt), Alvin Boission, Dexter Francis, Sherwyn Julien, Ancil Elcock, Kelvin Jones and Dean Pacheco won the US \$5,000 in the first year.

But the league enjoyed a stormy passage with several court actions against its officers, regular rescheduling of matches and travel problems, finally taking its toll and causing the league to fold. One of the contradictions during the early nineties was the fact that several local players began to move into professional ranks.

The publicity given to the Trinidad and Tobago/United States match, although the local team failed to qualify for Italy, brought several scouts to the country.

Latapy, who at age 14, was voted the country's Player of the year in 1983, was discovered as a 17-year old by Bradford City and never turned back, going on to Porto, Hibernian and eventually Rangers.

Dwight Yorke moved to Aston Villa following the 1989 game against the USA before earning a 12.5-million pound transfer to England's top Premiership club Manchester United in 1997.

Several other players: Leonson Lewis, Clint Marcelle, Anthony Rougier, David Nakhid, Ancil Elcock and a host of other outstanding players in the early part of the 1990s were given trials and contracts on the professional circuit.

As these players became more and more independent, however, and made their marks on the international circuit, their interest in representing Trinidad and Tobago appeared to wane. Yorke became the subject of much attention from Warner in 1996 after he failed to take part in the Shell/Umbro series. "It is plain that the pros no longer feel obliged to play for their country. I believe it is only fair that when you ask them to put something back in football, they should do it" He pointed out that every single African player returned home from club football for the Nations Cup. "We will never again succumb to the kind of embarrassment which we have had this time. Let the prima donnas stay where they are and play with their clubs."

The players also staged something of a mutiny in 1996 when they refused to train for the World Cup after the team had no further chance of qualifying.

The action stemmed from the Association's failure to pay match fees following a 2-1 loss to Guatemala which booted the team out of the Cup qualifiers.

Money was also given as the reason why Yorke and Latapy did not take part in the Concacaf Gold Cup in 1997.

The TTFA announced that players wanted fees which Association could not provide.

Both demanded a US \$5,000 match fee.

Following the failure to get past the first round for the France World Cup in 1996, the TTFA appointed an interim technical advisory committee (TAC) to help run the game in 1997.

This committee comprised: Jimmy Blanc, Richard Brathwaite, Peter Granville, Sedley Joseph, Dr Alvin Henderson, Keith Look Loy and Ken Henry.

In addition, following a retreat in Mayaro which was attended by all TTFA officials, a task force was set up to draft a revised strategic plan for football. This group included Tim Nafziger, Rawle Jeffery, Robert Dumas, Edgar Vidale, Dwight Day and Trevor Murray.

One of the first moves of the TAC was to appoint Bertille St Clair as national coach with George Joseph as his assistant.

Edgar Vidale was named technical advisor with Richard Brathwaite as manager and Peter Rampersad as his assistant.

The committee also named Peter Granville coach of the Under 19 and Mohammed Isa as the under 17 coach in its restructuring exercise.

In early January 1997, Warner was named as one of the FIFA Vice-presidents.

He replaced Guillermo Canedo and was the sixth person among the FIFA hierarchy.

Almost immediately, he announced that a decision to give Trinidad and Tobago the rights to host the Junior World Cup in 2001 was being rescinded.

Warner had announced since 1994 that Trinidad and Tobago would host the tournament.

A pained Warner reported in 1997: “Although most countries are given four years in which to prepare for a World championships, Trinidad and Tobago was given seven. In a nutshell, nothing has been done, not a single thing, not a meeting nor a feasibility study conducted”

However, following a meeting with Government officials later in the year, Trinidad and Tobago went ahead with preparations for hosting its first World Cup tournament.

Warner also launched his biography ‘Upwards Through the Night,’ during the year.

The book, ironically was written by Valentino Singh, the sports editor of the Trinidad Guardian, who was Warner’s biggest critics following the events of November 19, 1989.

The book was launched at a time when Warner appeared to have found substantial support, particularly among the business community and a respectability in the island that he could not seem to generate during his tenure as secretary of the Association.

Although his stated ambition of getting his country to the World Cup still remained only a vision, Warner’s FIFA affiliation had spin-off effects that could hardly have happened without his influence.

For example, Warner announced that FIFA had approved \$39 million for the Centre of Excellence in Macoya, east Trinidad, bringing the total funds for the massive sporting complex to \$101 million.

Warner also gave the Association, which changed to the Trinidad and Tobago Football Federation in 1998, its own home, complete with secretarial staff.

And the Concacaf headquarters was moved to Edward Street, Port of Spain.

He was the one who negotiated most of the deals relative to the Professional League and his own club Joe Public, rapidly grew into a blueprint for any other club to follow, with age group and female teams.

Although, Trinidad and Tobago referees had long earned respect in the Caribbean, the country’s Ramesh Ramdhan became the first man to carry the whistle in a World Cup finals in France 1998. Ramdhan did the game between Japan and Croatia.

In addition Cassie Moore, became the first female referee from Trinidad and Tobago to be selected on the FIFA panel in 1997.

She joined a number of other men in Ramdan, Austin Harewood, Robin Bynoe, Hayden Holder, Lincoln Ramnarine and Noel Bynoe while Boni Bishop, Eutrice Foster, Peter Kelly, Merere Gonzales, Terrence Jarvis, Ronald Geoffroy, Haseeb Mohammed and Bevon Spencer were among the referees assistant.

Warner also announced in 1997 that the regional competition was being renamed. Since it was now a branch of the Concacaf Copa de Oro (Gold Cup), the name was changed to Copa Caribe.

But Warner’s finest moment since his elevation to FIFA was reserved for 1998 when Jamaica became the first English-speaking Caribbean country to reach the World Cup finals.

It had always been his dream that Trinidad and Tobago would achieve such a distinction.

But their perennial arch-rivals beat them to it.

The ‘Reggae Boyz,’ as Jamaica were dubbed qualified for France in 1998.

The Concacaf zone, under Warner now had the luxury of three representatives in the finals.

This had grown from one when Haiti was the lone qualifier in 1974 to two when the USA and Costa Rica were the representatives in 1990 to three when Jamaica joined the USA and Mexico in France 1998.

It was another tribute to Warner’s negotiation skills.

But it would not help him to achieve the one thing that he desperately wanted to do before the end of the century.

And that was to see his country qualify for the World Cup finals.

The Story of Football in Trinidad and Tobago 1893 - 2000

Chapter Sixteen

Thomas Boyd's decision to import one football to Trinidad in 1893 turned out to be a major investment.

Apart from the social benefits gained, Trinidad and Tobago became one of the major suppliers of international and Caribbean football interest over the next 107 years.

Boyd's mission to keep his Scottish friends together, could be no more patriotic than Austin Jack Warner's vision of uniting Trinidad and Tobago's through the sport.

Warner's rise in the international circles, where he was a FIFA vice-president and the sixth highest person in the world in the football hierarchy in 2000, was perhaps the country's greatest achievements.

Several other Trinidadians, including Eric James, Harold Taylor and Eric James also served the region with distinction.

The exploits of players such as Yorke who played at Manchester United and Latapy at Hibernian, were just two of the examples of the quality of player emerging from the Republic. They followed long after players like Maple's Allan Joseph and Nattie Sealey had laid the foundation in the 1940s. They were in turn followed by the era of Warren Archibald, Gally Cummins and Leroy De Leon in the seventies.

But while Trinidad and Tobago was exporting to the bigger leagues of the world, the country was also importing players for its local professional league where several Caribbean players were making their presence felt.

Teams such as Joe Public and W Connection who were dominating, were recruiting players from as far off as Brazil, Haiti and the other Caribbean islands to take part in the local professional league.

W Connection, the 2000 national champion, was able to secure contracts with Italian clothing company Errea and Apta footwear in 1999 while they had on their staff a marketing manager, Englishman Peter Miller and St Lucian Stuart Charles Fevrier, who was voted coach of the year in 2000.

They also had a fully paid technical staff comprising three former national players, Jan Steadman, Errol Lovell and Leroy Spann and a local manager, Norris Ferguson.

Some of their foreign stars included Sierra Leone's Abdulai Conteh and Charlie Wright and Titus Elba of St Lucia.

Their winning team prize in 2000, was a cheque for \$.5 million while second placed Defence Force collected \$300,000 and third and fourth placed San Juan Jabloteh and Joe Public each received \$200,000. All other teams, Doc's Khelwalaas, Police, Arima Fire and Caledonia AIA were presented with \$100,000.

The outstanding player of the year Arnold Dwarika received a car for his performance in 1999 which was a giant step up from the previous year when Stern John, the Semipro's MVP, collected \$1,000

The professional league also included a number of other competitions including a 'Big Four' competition, the League Cup, the President's Cup and the FA Trophy.

No longer was the sport divided by colour or class and the entire population remained free to take part in competition.

In fact, the oldest serving club, the Queen's Park Cricket Club which was once exclusive to the white noblemen of England, allowed membership of all ethnicity, class and colour - the only criterion being talent.

The older clubs such as Shamrock, Casuals, Clydesdale which for years had their separatist prejudices, gave way to new institutions where one's ability was the most important criterion for membership.

Hundreds of coaching schools throughout the islands cropped up and it was possible to earn a living from one's involvement in football - an impossibility up to the mid 90s.

The image of the Federation was also being aggressively pursued. Apart from opening its brand new office on Dundonald Street, Port of Spain in December 2000, the Federation received a donation of US\$13.5 million from L-Sporto International as part of a thrust to secure foreign partners.

That money was to be used for equipment, support for the national teams, as well as to help fund a youth development programme and for support and cash bonuses.

The country's performance on the international circuit was also being recognized as Trinidad and Tobago moved from 88th in the FIFA rankings in the early 90s to 34 in 2000.

This followed the qualifying rounds of the 2002 World Cup in Japan and Korea.

At the time of writing, Trinidad had advanced to the final round of the Concacaf Zone qualifiers where they were due to play against Mexico, Jamaica, Costa Rica, Honduras and the United States in a bid to become one of the three teams from the zone for the finals.

The team cruised past the first round and then won five out of six games to top the teams in the semifinal stage, under coach Ian Porterfield of Scotland.

The only game which they lost was to Mexico in Mexico, after they had already secured their place in the final stage of the qualifiers.

The country's best ratings, however, was in 1996 when it peaked at 33.

The ratings did not only reflect the country's performance but also included how the sport was conducted.

In 1965 when Trinidad first played a World Cup qualifying match, the national players had to return their jerseys and socks to the Association at the end of a game. But by 2000, players were collecting between \$10,000 and \$30,000 to represent the country.

In fact, after Trinidad and Tobago had won the first prize of \$ US 80,000 in the Copa Caribe in 1999, players received bonuses and fees that ranged between \$18,000 - \$30,000

Apart from the Federation's headquarters, the on and off Football Company (FCOTT) was also redesigned and given a secretariat from where it was aggressively chasing additional local and foreign partners

Four companies including Clico (sponsors of the Under 17 World Cup team), BWIA (national team travel), Errea (outfitting national team) and Select Sports which provided some 500 balls were among the companies to join the football family.

The news that the World Youth Cup was being held in Trinidad and Tobago in 2001, was another positive sign that Trinidad and Tobago was about to make its mark on international football.

At the time of writing a foreign coach Chief Ayibidne of Nigeria was contracted to prepare the local team for the tournament and sessions throughout the country was being planned to find the best young players to represent the nation.

The Story of Football in Trinidad and Tobago 1893 -2000

World Cup History

1966 - England

SQUAD: Lincoln Phillips, Aldwyn Ferguson, Tyronne de la Bastide, Clem Clarke, Doyle Griffith, Sedley Joseph (captain), Kenneth Furlonge, Andy Aleong, Jeff Gellineau, Trevor Leacock, Victor Gamaldo, Bobby Sookram, Alvin Corneal and Pat Small.
Conrad Brathwaite (coach), C.E. Thompson (manager).

Preliminaries

February 6, 1965 - TT 4 (A. Aleong 2, J. Gellineau, A. Corneal) Suriname 1

Feb 21, 1965 - Costa Rica 4 TT 0

March 7, 1965 - TT 0 Costa Rica 1

March 14, 1965 - Suriname 6 TT 1 (Bobby Sookram)

TT failed to move past first round. Mexico qualifies for England

1970 - Mexico

SQUAD: Jean Mouttet, Brian Bain, Jan Steadman, Selwyn Murren, Tyronne De la Bastide (capt), Rawle Aimey, Leroy de Leon, Everaldo Cummings, Wilfred Cave, Ulric Haynes, Warren Archibald, Keith Renaud, Ken Butcher, Kenny Joseph, Gwenwyn Cust, Lawrence Rondon, Arnim David. Eric James (manager), Anselm St George (asst manager), Michael Laing (coach).

Preliminaries

Nov 17, 1968 - Guatemala 4 TT 0

Nov 20, 1968 - TT 0 Guatemala 0

Nov 23, 1968 - TT 0 Haiti 4

Nov 25, 1968 - Haiti 2 TT 4 (U. Haynes, W. Archibald 3)

TT failed to move past first round El Salvador qualifies for Mexico

1974 - Germany

SQUAD: Gerald Figeroux, Kelvin Barclay, Devenish Paul (goalkeepers), Russell Tesheira, Raymond Moraldo, Selwyn Murren (captain), Selris Figaro, Winston Phillips (defenders), Cummings, Dennis Morgan, Sydney Augustine, Leon Carpette, Anthony Douglas, Peter Mitchell (midfielders), Steve Khan, Wilfred Cave, Ray Roberts, Leo Brewster, Steve David and Warren Archibald (forwards).

Officials: Kevin Verity (coach) Edgar Vidale (assistant coach), Ken Henry (trainer), Polly Regis (physiotherapist), Oliver Camps (manager)

Preliminaries

Nov 10, 1974 - TT 11 (N. Llewellyn 3, S. David 3, L. Spann 2, R. Roberts 2, L. Brewster) Antigua and Barbuda 1

Nov 19, 1972 - Antigua 1 TT 2 (N. Llewellyn, S. David)

Nov 28, 1972 - Suriname 1 TT 2 (L. Brewster, R. Roberts)

Nov 30, 1972 TT 1 (S. David) Suriname 1

TT advances to play-off in Haiti

Playoffs

Nov 30, 1973 - Honduras 2 TT 1 (S. David)

Dec 4, 1973 - Haiti 2 TT 1 (S. David)

Dec 10, 1973 - Guatemala 0 TT 1 (E. Cummings)

Dec 14, 1973 - TT 4 (E. Cummings 2, S. David, W. Archibald) Mexico 0

Dec 17, 1973 - TT 4 (S. David 4) Netherland Antilles 0

Standings

Haiti 5-4-0-1- 8-3-8

TT 5-3-0-2-11-4-6

Mexico 5-2-2-1-10-5-5

Honduras 5-1-3-1-6-6-3

Guatemala 5-0-3-2-4-6-2

Netherlands 5-0-2-3-4-19-2

TT finishes second in finals. .Haiti advances to West Germany

1978 - Argentina

SQUAD: Kelvin Barclay, Earl Carter, John Granville, Selris Figaro (capt), Russell Tesheira, Renwick Williams, Robert Francis, Anthony Russell, Gordon Husbands, K. Walkes, Michael Grayson, Everaldo Cummings, Leroy Spann, Leon Carpette, Steve Pierre, Godfrey Harris, Steve David, Keith Aquí, Lawrence Mathews, Tom Phillips, Ray Roberts, Curtis Murrell. Edgar Vidale (coach).

Preliminaries

Aug 15, 1976 - Barbados 2 TT 1 (S. David)

August 31, 1976 - TT 1 (A. Douglas) Barbados 0

Playoff match

Sept 14, 1976 - TT 3 (N. Llewellyn, S. Carpette, Victor Clarke OG) Barbados 1

2nd round

Nov 14, 1976 - Suriname 1 TT 1 (S. David)

Nov 29, 1976 - TT 2 (S. Figaro pen, N. Llewellyn) Suriname 2

Play-off

Dec 18, 1976 - Suriname 3 TT 2 (S. david)

TT fails to go past second round. Mexico advances to Argentina

1982 - Spain

SQUAD: Michael Maurice, Shurland Richards, Ricky Nelson, R. George, Veron Skinner, Brian Williams, W. Joseph, V. Charles, L. Spann (capt), C. Murrell, S. Pierre, B. John, F. Haynes, C. Mendez, C. Pugh, Allan Anderson, Nevick Denoon, O. Waldron, . Alvin Corneal (coach), M. Cooper (asst coach), Ken Butcher (trainer), Ralph Brown (manager), L. Niles (physio).

Preliminaries

Aug 1, 1980 - Haiti 2 TT 0

Aug 17, 1980 - TT 1 (L. Spann pen) Haiti 0

Nov 9, 1980 - TT 0 Netherland Antilles 0

Nov 29, 1980 - Netherland Antilles 0 TT 0

TT fails to go past first round. Honduras advances to Spain

1986 - Mexico

SQUAD: Michael Maurice (capt), Hayden Thomas, Garnet Craig, Miguel Hackett, Kelvin Jones, Julien Garcia, Francis Furlonge, Wendell Moore, Anthony Pope, Betram O'Brien, Clayton Morris, Curtis Murrell, Allan Anderson, Clyde Denoon, Steve Pompey, Adrian Funrose, Winston Phillips, Philbert Jones. Coach - Roderick Warner, Assistant coach Muhammad Ali, Trainer Kenny Josphe, manager - Lennox Kingston, doctor - Rawle Sylvester.

Preliminaries

TT advances after Grenada withdraws

Second round

April 24, 1985 - TT 0 Costa Rica 3

April 28, 1985 - Costa Rica 1 (J. Utale) TT 1 (Nevick Denoon)

May 15 1985 - TT 1 (A. Funrose) USA 2 (C.Borga, M. Paterson)

May 19, 1985 - USA 1 (P. Caliguirri) TT 0

TT fails to get past first round. Canada advances to Mexico

1990 - Italy

SQUAD: Dwight Yorke, Russell Latapy Leonson Lewis, Dexter Francis, Michael Maurice, Kerry Jamerson, Brian Williams, Clayton Morris (captain), Marvin Faustin, Hutson Charles, Philbert Jones, Leroy Spann, Colvin Hutchinson, Dexter Lee, Marlon Morris, Maurice Alibey, Earl Carter, Paul Elliot Allen, Errol Lovell, Floyd Lawrence and Ricky Nelson. Everard Cummings (coach) Oliver Camps (manager), Ken Henry (trainer), Neville Chance (asst coach), Lester Osuna (physio), Shirley Rudd Ottley (psychologist), Rawle Sylvester (team doctor) and Ikin Williams (equipment manager).

First round

April 17, 1988 - TT 4 (M. Faustin) Guyana 1

May 8, 1988 TT 1 (Anton Corneal) Guyana 0

Second round

Oct 30, 1988 - TT 0 Honduras 0

Nov 13, 1988 - Honduras 1 (J.Flores) TT 1 (H. Charles)
(TT advance, away goals rule)

Playoffs

May 13, 1989 - USA 1 TT 1 (H. Charles)
May 28, 1989 - TT 1 (P. Jones) Costa Rica 1
June 11, 1989 - Costa Rica 1 TT 0
July 30, 1989 - TT 2 (L. Lewis 2) El Salvador 0
Aug 13, 1989 - El Salvador 0 TT 0
Aug 20, 1989 - Guatemala 0 TT 1 (K. Jamerson)
Sept 3, 1989 - TT 2 (P. Jones, K. Jamerson) Guatemala 1
Nov 19, 1989 - TT 0 USA 1

Standings

Costa Rica 8-5-1-2-10-6-11
USA 8-4-3-1-7-3-11
TT 8-3-3-2-7-5-9
Guatemala 6-1-1-4-4-7-3
El Salvador 6-0-2-4-2-8-2
TT finishes third in play-offs. United States and Costa Rica qualify for Italy

1994 - USA

SQUAD: M. Maurice, Hayden Thomas, Clayton Morris, Dexter Lee, Dexter Francis, Kelvin Jones, Hutson Charles, Kerry Jamerson, Russell Latapy, Clint Marcelle, Leonson Lewis, Dwight Yorke, Brian Williams, Marvin faustin, Alvin Boisson, Philbert Jones, Dean Pacheco, Theodore.

First round

April 19, 1992 - TT 2 (Latapy, H. Charles) Barbados 1
May 31, 1992 - TT 3 (Faustin, Jamerson, Lewis) Barbados 0

Second round

July 5, 1992 - Jamaica 2 TT 1 (H. Charles)
Aug 16, 1992 - TT 1 (B. Haynes) Jamaica 1
TT fails to get past second round.

1998 - France

SQUAD: M. Maurice, R.Russell, H. Thomas, M. Faustin, S. Julien, H. Charles, S. Mason, T. St Louis, T. Mulraine, A. Eve, D. Lee, S. John. R. Theodore, Russell Latapy, David Nakhid, Jerren Nixon, Anthony Rougier, E. Wise, A. Dwarika, D. Yorke, L. Lewis, C. Demmin. E. Cummings (coach, K. Joseph (asst), K. Henry (trainer), I. Dore (Physio), I. Williams (equipment manger).

Preliminaries

TT bye

Second round

June 16 - TT 4 (R. Latapy 2, A. Eve, OG) Dominican Republic 1 (A. Jiminez)
June 23 - TT 8 (S. John 3, A. Eve 2, A. Rougier, R. Latapy, D. Yorke) Dominican Republic 0

Semifinals

Sept 1 - Costa Rica 1 TT 0

Oct 6 - TT 1 (J. Nixon) Guatemala 1

Nov 10 - TT 0 USA 2

Nov 24 - TT 0 USA 1

Dec 8 - TT 1 (A. Eve) Guatemala 2

Dec 21 - TT 1 (J. Nixon) Costa Rica 2

TT fails to get past second round. US, Mexico and Jamaica advance to France.

2002 World Cup Korea/Japan

March 4 - T&T 5 (Dwarika 2, Eve 2, Andrews) - Netherland Antilies 0

March 18 - Netherland Antilies 0 T&T 1 (Andrews)

April 2 - T&T 3 (Dwarika 2, Eve) Dominica Republic 0

April 16 - Dominica Republic 0 - T&T 1 (N. Pierre)

May 7 - T&T 3 (Dwarika, Andrews, Yorke) - Haiti 1

May 19 - T&T 1 (Yorke) Haiti 1

Semifinals

Jul 16 - Canada 0 T&T 2 (Eve, Yorke)

Jul 23 - T&T 1 (Latapy) Mexico 0

Aug 16 - TT 6 (Rougier, Yorke 3, Eve, N. Pierre) Panama 0

Sept 3 TT 4 (Latapy, Carrington, Mason, Eve) Canada 0

Oct 8 - Mexico 7 TT 0

Nov 15 - TT 1 (N. Pierre) Panama 0

Concacaf finals

Feb 28, 2001 Jamaica 1 TT 0

March 28 Costa Rica 3 TT 0

April 25 - TT 1 (M. Andrews) Mexico 1

June 16 - Honduras 4 TT 2 (Latapy, S. John)

June 20 - USA 2 TT 0

June 30 - TT 1 (S. John) Jamaica 2

Sept 1 - TT 0 Costa Rica 2

Sept 5 - Mexico 3 TT 0

Oct 7 - Honduras 0 TT 1 (S. John)

Nov 11 - TT 0 USA 0

The Story of Football in Trinidad and Tobago
1893 –2000

Chapter Eighteen

The Champions
Professional Football League 2000

Champions: Vibe CT 105 W Connection
Runners Up: Defence Force
First Citizens Bank Cup: CL Financial Jabloteh
FA Trophy: W Connection. Runners Up: Joe Public
Fair Play Award: W Connection
Team of the Year: W Connection
Player of the Year: Reynold Carrington
Player of the Year (Female): Leslie Ann James
Rookie of The Year: Jason Scotland
Referee of the Year: Noel Bynoe
Referee of the Year (Female): Cassie Moore
Assistant Referee of the Year: Michael Ragoonath
Assistant Referee of the Year (Female): Linda Bramble
Coach of the Year: Stuart Charles Fevrier
Administrator of the Year: Norris Ferguson 2000

Professional Football League 1999

Champions: Defence Force. Runners Up: Joe Public
Mt D'or Big Four: Joe Public. Runners up: Jabloteh
President's Cup: Joe Public. Runners Up: W Connection
PFL Cup: Jabloteh. Runners Up: W. Connection
FA Trophy: W Connection. Runners Up: Joe Public
Fair Play Award : W Connection
Team of the Year: Joe Public
Player of the Year: Arnold Dwarika
Rookie of The Year: Kerwyn Jemmot
Referee of the year: Ramesh Ramdhan
Referee of the Year (Female): Shane De Silva
Assistant Referee of the Year: Haseeb Mohammed
Assistant Ref of Year (Female) Bonnie Bishop.
Special Awards: Sedley Joseph, Noor Hassanali, Sir Ellis Clarke, Robin Greenidge, Len Jardine, Horace Henderson, Lystra Lewis, Len Leggard, Tommy Nathaniel, Dr Edward Turton, Arthur 'Jap' Brown, Hugo Francis, The Red Cross, Defece Force, CCN, Carib, Cigarette Company of Jamaica.

Semi Professional League - 1998

Champions: Defence Force. Runners Up: Joe Public
Mt D'or Big Four: Courts Caledonia AIA. Runners Up: CL Financial Jabloteh

PFL Cup: Superstar rangers. Runners Up: Defence Force
Fair Play Trophy : Doc's Engineering Falcons
FA Trophy: United Petrotrin. Runners Up: Superstar Rangers.
Team of The Year: United Petrotrin
MVP: Stern John

Carib Semi Professional league - 1997
Champions: Defence Force. Runners up: Joe Public
League Cup - Superstar Rangers
Mt D'or Big Four Series - AIA Caledonia
Runners up - Jabloteh
FA Trophy - United Petrotrin. Runners Up: Superstar Rangers
Fair Play Trophy: Doc's Engineering Falcons
Team of the Year: United Petrotrin

Carib Semi Professional League - 1996
Champions: Defence Force
FA Cup - Defence Force. Runners Up: Police
League Cup - Defence Force Falcons

The Amateur Champions 1908 - 1995

1908

League - Clydesdale

1909

League - Casuals

Bonanza Cup - Casuals

1910

League - Shamrock

Bonanza Cup - Clydesdale

BDV Trophy - Casuals

1911

League - Shamrock

Bonanza Cup - Casuals

BDV - Casuals

Wilson Cup - Casuals

Second League - St Mary's

1912

League - Casuals

Bonanza Cup - Southern

BDV - Southern

Wilson Cup - St Mary's

Second League - St Mary's

1913

League - Casuals

Bonanza - Southern

BDV Cup - Southern

Second League - St Mary's

McLelland Cup - North

1914

League - Casuals

Bonanza Cup - Casuals

BDV - Southern

Second League - Unity

1915

League - Clydesdale

Bonanza Cup - Casuals

BDV Cup - Southern
Second League - St Mary's

1916

Allied Cup - Queen's Park Cricket Club

1917

Bonanza Cup - Maple
BDV Cup - Queen's Park Cricket Club

1918

Bonanza Cup - Queen's Park
BDV Cup - Queen's Park

1919

League (BDV Cup) - Queen's Park
Bonanza Cup - No competition
BDV Cup - Queen's Park
Second League - Shamrock
Hugh McLelland Cup - North

1920

League - Royal Sussex
Bonanza Cup - Maple
BDV Cup - Casuals
Hugh McLelland Cup North

1921

League - Casuals
Bonanza Cup - Southern
BDV Cup - Maple
McLelland Cup - North

1922

League - Maple
Bonanza Cup - St Mary's
BDV Cup - St Mary's
McLelland Cup - North

1923

League - Shamrock
Bonanza Cup - Sporting Club
BDV Cup - St Mary's
McLelland Cup - North

1924

League - Shamrock
Bonanza Cup - Casuals
BDV Cup - Casuals
McLelland Cup North
Sperling Cup - Shamrock

1925

League - Shamrock
Bonanza Cup - Casuals
BDV Cup - Sporting Club
Sperling Cup - Shamrock
McLelland - North

1926

League - Sporting Club
Bonanza Cup - Casuals
BDV Cup - Casuals
Sperling Cup - Brighton 2
McLelland Cup - North

1927

League - Maple
Bonanza Cup - Sporting Club
FA Cup (first time) - Shamrock
BDV Cup - won outright by Casuals previous season
Sperling Cup - Brighton
Gilbert Skinner Cup (replaces McLelland Cup) - North

1928

League - Maple
Bonanza Cup - Maple
BDV Cup - Everton
FA Trophy - Southern Casuals
Sperling Cup - Maple
Gilbert Skinner Cup - North 4-1

1929

League - Casuals
Wincarnis Cup (replaces Bonanza Cup won outright by Maple previous season) - Everton
BDV Cup - Casuals
FA Trophy - Everton (Maple walked off field after referee Rochford ordered Leslie (Everton and H. Achong (Maple) off field. Everton were leading 3-2 at the time.)
Sperling Cup - Casuals
Gilbert Skinner Cup - South

1930

League - Everton
FA trophy - Everton
Wincarnis Club - Everton
Sperling Cup - Everton
Sperling Cup - Everton
Gilbert Skinner Cup - North

1931

League - Everton

FA trophy - Everton

Sperling Cup - Everton

Wincarnis Cup - Everton

BDV Cup - No competition

Gilbert Skinner Cup - North

McKinney/Leotaud Charity Cup - Everton 2 The Rest 1

1932

League - Everton

FA trophy - Everton 2

Sperling Cup - Everton

Wincarnis Cup - Everton

Gilbert Skinner Cup - North

Mc Kinney Cup - Everton 3 The Rest 1

1933

League - QRC

FA Cup - No competition

Gooden Chisholm Cup (1st year) - QRC

SBDV Cup - Shamrock

Gilbert Skinner Cup North

1934

League - Casuals

FA Trophy - Casuals

Gooden Chisholm Cup - Casuals

SBDV - Casuals

Gilbert Skinner Cup - South 1 -0

1935

League - Casuals

SBDV - Constabulary

FA Trophy - Sporting Club

Gooden Chisholm Cup - Casuals

Gilbert Skinner Cup - South

1936

League - Sporting Club

FA trophy - Shamrock

SBDV Cup - Shamrock

Gooden Chisholm Cup - Sporting Club

Gilbert Skinner Cup - North

1937

League - Sporting Club

FA trophy - UBOT

Gooden Chisholm Cup - Leaseholds Club

SBDV - Shamrock

Gilbert Skinner Cup (Inter-league) - SAFL (First such competition)

1938

League - Casuals

FA Trophy - West Ham

SBDV Cup winners - Shamrock

Gooden Chisholm Cup - Apex

Gilbert Skinner Cup - SAFL

Hayward Shield - TAFA

1939

League - Notre Dame

SBDV Cup winners - Shamrock

FA Trophy - Casuals

Gooden Chisholm Cup - Notre Dame

Gilbert Skinner Cup - North

1940

League - Casuals

SBDV Cup - Colts (TASL)

FA Trophy - Maple

Gooden Chisholm Cup - Casuals

Hayward Shield - TAFA (1st year)

1941

League - Casuals

FA Trophy - UBOT

Gooden Chisholm Cup - UBOT

SBDV Cup - Notre Dame

Hayward Shield - TAFA

1942

League - Colts

FA Trophy - Spitfire

SBDV Cup - Colts

Gooden Chisholm Cup - Colts

Hayward Shield - TAFA

1943

League - Fleet Air Arm
BDV Cup - First Battalion
FA Trophy - UBOT
Gooden Chisholm Cup - UBOT
Hayward Shield - TAFA

1944

League - Shamrock
FA Trophy - Colts
SBDV Cup - Bradford
Gooden Chisholm Cup - Shamrock
Hayward Shield - SAFL

1945

League - Colts
SBDV Cup - Shamrock
FA Trophy - Colts
Gooden Chisholm Cup - UBOT
Hayward Shield - TAFA

1946

League - Notre Dame
BDV Cup - Malvern
Gooden Chisholm Cup - Notre Dame
FA Trophy - Maple
Hayward Shield - TAFA

1947

League - Colts
BDV Cup - Malvern
FA Trophy - Notre Dame
Gooden Chisholm Cup - Colts
Hayward Shield - TAFA

1948

League - Malvern
FA Trophy - Colts
BDV Cup - Shamrock

Gooden Chisholm - Malvern
Hayward Shield - TAFA

1949

League - Malvern
FA trophy - Maple/Carlton
Gooden Chisholm Cup - UBOT
BDV Cup - Malvern
Hayward Shield - TAFA

1950

League - Maple
FA Trophy - UBOT
BDV Cup - No competition
Gooden Chisholm Cup - Maple
Hayward Shield - TAFA

1951

League - Maple
FA Trophy - UBOT/Providence (joint)
Gooden Chisholm Cup - Maple
BDV Cup - Colts
Hayward Shield - TAFA

1952

League - Maple
Gooden Chisholm Cup - Maple
BDV Cup - Maple
FA Trophy - Malvern
Hayward Shield - TAFA

1953

POSFL - Maple
Gooden Chisholm Cup - United British Athletic Association
BDV Cup - Maple
FA Trophy - Maple 1
Hayward Shield - SAFL

1954

League - Sporting Club
FA Trophy - UBOT
Gooden Chisholm Cup - UBOT
BDV Cup -Colts

1955

POSFL - Sporting Club
FA Trophy - Malvern
BDV Cup - Colts
Gooden Chisholm - Sporting Club
1957

League - Colts
FA Trophy - Shell / Shamrock
BDV Cup - Maple 2
Gooden Chisholm - Colts 1
Red Cross Cup - North 3 (Franco 2, Rodriguez) South 2 (R Dewar, E. Turton)
Roy Joseph Cup - South

1958

League winners - Shamrock
BDV Cup - Providence
FA trophy - Casuals
Gooden Chisholm - Shell
Hinds Memorial (to open the season) - North
Red Cross Cup (middle) - North 1
Roy Joseph Cup - South

1959

League - Shamrock
FA Trophy - Shamrock
BDV Cup - Shamrock 2
Gooden Chisholm - Shamrock/TPD goalless draw joint champs. Shamrock succeeds in emulating Casuals who in 1934 won all trophies contested in first division.
Hinds Memorial - North East
Red Cross - North East
Roy Joseph Cup - North East

1960

League - Maple
FA Trophy: Malvern
BDV Cup: Malvern
Gooden Chisholm - Maple
Hinds Memorial - North
Red Cross - North
Roy Joseph Cup - South

1961

League - Maple
FA Trophy - Malvern/BP Fyzabad
BDV Cup - Dynamos
Gooden Chisholm - Maple/Shell joint
Hinds Memorial - North East

Red Cross - North East
Roy Joseph Cup - South/North East joint

1962

League - Maple.
FA Trophy - Dynamos
BDV Cup - Malvern
Gooden Chisholm - Maple
Hinds Memorial - North East 2 South 2
Red Cross - North 3 South 1
Roy Joseph Cup - South 1 North East 0

1963 - Maple

FA Trophy - Maple
BDV Cup - Colts
Gooden Chisholm - Maple
Hinds Memorial - North East
Red Cross - North East
Roy Joseph Cup - joint

1964 -

League - Paragon
FA Trophy - Paragon
BDV Cup - Maple
Gooden Chisholm - Paragon
Hinds Memorial - North
Red Cross - joint
Roy Joseph Cup - South

1965

POS League - Regiment
FA Trophy - Malvern
BDV Cup - Maple
Gooden Chisholm - Regiment
President's Cup - Regiment
POSFL Cup - Regiment/Malvern (joint)
Roy Joseph Cup - South

1966 -

League - Regiment
FA Trophy - Regiment/ Juniors joint
Gooden Chisholm Cup - Regiment
President Douglin St George Cup - Regiment
POSFL Cup - Maple
Roy Joseph - North

Red Cross - South
Hinds - shared

1967

League - Maple
FA Trophy - Regiment
BDV Cup - Regiment
Gooden Chisholm - Shell/Maple
POSFL Cup - Maple
President Douglin St George Cup - Juniors

1968

POS League - Maple
FA Trophy - Malvern
BDV Cup - Paragon
Gooden Chisholm - Caroni
POSFL Cup - Paragon

1969

POS League - Maple
BDV Cup - Malvern
FA Trophy - Point Fortin
Gooden Chisholm - Point Fortin CC
POSFL Cup - Malvern
Phil Douglin Trophy for most goals - Regiment

1970 -

POS League - Regiment
BDV Cup - Regiment
POSFL Cup - Regiment
FA Trophy - Maple
Gooden Chisholm - Regiment
President's Cup - Regiment
Douglin St George Trophy for most goals - Regiment

1971 -

POS League - League failed to finish on time and subsequently had to be called off because of the Fifth Seniors Concacaf Championships which were staged in TT
The only trophy completed was the POSFL Cup which was shared jointly between Paragon and Regiment after a drawn game.

1972 -

POS League - Defence Force (not Regiment)
BDV Cup - Colts

FA Trophy - Maple
Gooden Chisholm - PFCC /Defence Force
POSFL Cup - Paragon 3
Presidents Cup - Defence Force
Hinds Memorial - North East
Red Cross - South Central
Roy Joseph Cup - South Central

1973

POS League - Defence Force
BDV Cup - Malvern

1974

National Soccer League - Defence Force
POS League - Malvern
Constantine Cup - Malvern
Gooden Chisholm Trophy - Malvern/PFCC
Champion of Champion Series - Malvern
FA Trophy - Defence Force
BDV Cup - Boissierre Youth

1975

National Soccer League - Defence Force
Gooden Chisholm Cup - Malvern
Constantine Cup - - Malvern
Champion of Champions - Malvern
FA Trophy - Police

1976 -

National Soccer league - Defence Force
FA Trophy - Falcons

1977

National Soccer League - Defence Force
FA Trophy - Malvern
Constantine Cup - Malvern

1978 -

National Soccer League - Defence Force
FA Trophy - falcons

1979 -

National Soccer League - Police

1980 -

National Soccer league - Defence Force

1981 -

National Soccer league - Defence Force

FA Trophy - Defence Force
Premier Soccer League - ASL Sports

1982

National League - ASL Sports
FA Trophy - ASL Sports

1983 -

Trinidad and Tobago Football league - ASL Sports
FA Trophy - ASL Sports

1984 -

National Soccer league - Defence Force
FA Trophy - Motown United

1985 -

National Soccer League - Defence Force
FA Trophy - Defence Force
Stag Big Four - Defence Force
League Cup - Defence Force
Team of the Year - Defence Force

1986

National Soccer League - Trintoc
FA Trophy - Trintoc

1987 -

National Soccer League - Defence Force
FA Trophy - La Brea Angels

1988

National League - Trintoc
FA Trophy - Trintoc

1989

National League - Defence Force
FA Trophy - Defence Force-

1990 -

National League - Defence Force
FA Trophy - Police

1991 -

Carib National League - Police
League Cup - Trintoc
FA Trophy - Defence Force

Team of the Year - Police
Player of the Year - Ralph Alfred
Fair Play Trophy - Superstar rangers
CoC Champs - Maple
Women's League - Rossi Potential
Women's KO - Phoenix
Women's Player of the Year - Izler Brown (Trintoc)

1992 -
Carib National League - Defence Force
FA Trophy - Motown
League Cup - Trintopec
CoC - Persevearence Falcons
Women's League - Rossi Potential
Women's KO - Rossi Potential
Player of the Year - Hayden Thomas
Team of the year - Defence Force
Fair Play Trophy - Maple

1993
League - Defence Force
FA Trophy - Trintoc

1994
Carib National League - Police
FA trophy - Police

1995 -
Carib National League - Defence Force
FA Trophy - United Petrotrin. Runners Up: Defence Force
Big Four - United Petrotrin

The Story of Football in Trinidad and Tobago

1893 - 2000

Presidents

1908 - Thomas Boyd
1912 - G. Archibald
1916 - Felix Leotaud
1919 - Fr John O'Brien
1921 - Felix Leotaud
1929 - Joseph Scheult
1930 - Major ET Carr
1931 - Felix Leotaud
1934 - Capt John Cuthridge
1942 - Major Courtenay Rooks
1945 - Lieut -Commander Charles Hayward
1947 - George Rochford
1949 - Lieut-Commander Charles Hayward
1955 - Ken Galt
1965 - Dom Basil Mathews
1968 - Ernil Paul
1973 - Phil Douglin
1974 - Ken Galt
1978 - John Alleyne
1985 - Peter O'Connor
1991 - Major Ralph Browne
1992 - Joe Bodkyn
1992 - Oliver Camps

The Story of Football in Trinidad and Tobago

1893 - 2000

Secretaries

1908 - John Rochford
1909 - A. Horsford/F. Leotaud
1911 - Robert Stanley
1912 - Cyril Norman
1913 - Archie Collens
1916 - Robert Cambridge

Treasurers

1908 - John Scheult
1909 - W. Adam
1912 - John Scheult
1916 - E. Hinds

The Story of Football in Trinidad and Tobago

1893 – 2000

Secretary/Treasurer

1917 - Ernie Hinds

1942 - Eric James

1972 - Cyril Austin

1973 - Austin Jack Warner

1990 - Terrence O Neil Lewis

1991 - Harold Taylor

1992 - Terrence O Neil Lewis

1993 - Boris Punch

1995 - Dwight Day

1997 - Ken Henry

1998 - Richard Groden