

Cricket Legend Sir Garry Sobers Dies at 89

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BRIDGETOWN: Legendary West Indies cricketer Sir Garry Sobers, widely regarded as one of the greatest allrounders in the history of the

sport, has died at his home in Barbados at the age of 89.

Sobers was celebrated as a complete cricketer whose extraordinary skills with bat, ball and in the field made him a once-in-a-generation talent. He was a world-class left-handed batsman, a versatile bowler capable of delivering left-arm pace, orthodox spin and wrist spin, and an outstanding fielder. His all-round brilliance led fellow cricket great Sir Donald Bradman to describe him as a “five-in-one cricketer.”

During his remarkable Test career, Sobers represented the West Indies in 93 matches from 1954 to 1974, scoring 8,032 runs at an impressive average of 57.78 and claiming 235 wickets at 34.03. He also captained the West Indies in 39 Test matches between 1965 and 1972, guiding the team to nine victories.

The ICC’s prestigious annual men’s cricket award, the Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy, was named in his honour and recognises the outstanding overall performer in international cricket across all formats.

Born in Barbados in 1936, Sobers made his first-class debut at just 16 years old against India in January 1953. He made an immediate impact by taking four wickets in the first innings. A year later, he earned his Test debut against England in Jamaica, initially playing mainly as a bowler.

At the age of 21, Sobers announced his arrival as a batting great by scoring his first Test century and breaking the world record for the highest individual Test score. His unbeaten 365 against Pakistan at Sabina Park in 1958 remained the highest Test innings for 36 years before fellow West Indian Brian Lara surpassed the mark in 1994.

In 1968, Sobers achieved another historic milestone by becoming the first cricketer to hit six sixes in an over in first-class cricket. Playing for Nottinghamshire against Glamorgan, he struck six consecutive sixes off Malcolm Nash in Swansea.

Sobers’ first-class career included 383 matches for the West Indies, Barbados, Nottinghamshire and South Australia. He scored 28,314 runs

at an average of 54.87 and took 1,043 wickets at 27.74. Although his international career ended around the time One-Day Internationals began, he played one ODI for the West Indies against England at Headingley in 1973.

He was knighted in 1975 for his outstanding contribution to cricket and was named among Wisden's Five Cricketers of the Century in 2000, alongside Sir Donald Bradman, Sir Jack Hobbs, Sir Viv Richards and Shane Warne.

Cricket West Indies President Dr. The Hon. Kishore Shallow paid tribute to Sobers, describing him as "the greatest cricketer the world has ever seen." He offered condolences to Sobers' family, the people of Barbados and cricket fans worldwide.

"Sir Garfield Sobers became more than a sporting icon. He became a symbol of Caribbean excellence, resilience and possibility," Shallow said. "His achievements brought pride to Barbados, inspiration to the West Indies and admiration from every corner of the cricketing world."

Sobers' legacy extends far beyond his statistics. He represented the hopes and ambitions of the Caribbean and inspired generations of cricketers across the globe. His name will remain forever linked with excellence, courage and the highest standards of the game.

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