

= Andy Ganteaume =

Andrew " Andy " Gordon Ganteaume (22 January 1921 ? 17 February 2016) was a Trinidadian cricketer who played one Test match for the West Indies in 1948 as a batsman . He scored 112 in his only Test innings , which left him with the highest Test batting average in history . Ganteaume played for Trinidad from a young age and was chosen to play in a Test match against England following his good batting form in 1948 . However , his slow scoring probably cost him his place and he never played another Test , although he toured England with the West Indies in 1957 . At the time of his death , Ganteaume was the oldest surviving West Indies Test cricketer .

= = Early life = =

Ganteaume was born in Belmont , Port of Spain , Trinidad and Tobago . He had no formal cricket coaching but made his first @-@ class debut for Trinidad as a wicketkeeper in 1941 as a 19 @-@ year @-@ old . He scored 87 batting at number eight . Over the next few seasons , Ganteaume played regularly for Trinidad in first @-@ class competition and for North Trinidad in a non @-@ first @-@ class island competition . He also played football for the Trinidad team around this time , but his time for sport was restricted by his career in the civil service .

From batting in the middle @-@ order , Ganteaume was eventually promoted to open the batting as a theory at the time suggested that wicketkeepers might make good openers as they became accustomed to the conditions while keeping wicket ; Ganteaume neither believed this theory nor enjoyed being an opener . He scored his maiden first @-@ class century in 1946 ; a second followed later in the year .

= = Test match call @-@ up = =

In the 1947 ? 48 season , the England cricket team toured the West Indies . When the team played in Trinidad , Ganteaume scored 101 and 47 not out in the first match but journalists criticised him for scoring slowly in easy batting conditions . In a second match against the touring side , he scored 5 and 90 but was not selected in the team for the Test match which followed ? Ganteaume later suggested his non @-@ selection was a result of his underprivileged background . However , an injury to Jeff Stollmeyer , one of the West Indies ' opening batsmen , before the game meant that Ganteaume was called up into the side .

England batted first to score 362 , but when the West Indies batted , Ganteaume and his opening partner , George Carew shared a partnership of 173 . Once more , Ganteaume was criticised for slow batting , although he later suggested that he had concentrated on scoring singles to allow his in @-@ form partner to face the bowling . On the third day , he carried on batting to reach his century , the first in a Test match by a Trinidadian in Trinidad . The innings took around 270 minutes , but he slowed down as he neared three @-@ figures , and the West Indies ' captain sent out a note asking the batsmen to score faster . Other batsmen also batted slowly , and Ganteaume later claimed that England used negative , run @-@ saving tactics to slow the scoring rate . He did not bat in the second innings , when the West Indies needed to score runs quickly in an unsuccessful attempt to win the game . The match was drawn , having been earlier interrupted by rain which cut the playing time , but in the knowledge that quick scoring was vital , Ganteaume 's slow batting adversely affected the West Indies ' chances of victory .

Ganteaume did not play in the next Test match ? he was replaced by John Goddard who came into the team as part of a pre @-@ arranged scheme to rotate the captaincy . He was chosen in a preliminary 24 @-@ man squad to tour India and Pakistan in 1948 ? 49 , but did not make the final selection of 16 players , and was overlooked for the 1950 tour of England . He continued to play irregularly for Trinidad in the following years , but played no further representative cricket until 1957 .

= = Later career = =

Ganteaume was selected to tour England with the West Indies team in 1957 at the age of 36 . He played 19 first @-@ class matches on the tour and scored 800 runs at an average of 27 @.@ 58 . He passed fifty in seven innings , with a top @-@ score of 92 against Glamorgan . Norman Preston , the editor of Wisden Cricketers ' Almanack , suggested neither Ganteaume nor any of the other three specialist opening batsmen in the team " came up to expectations " , forcing Frank Worrell to open the batting . He never came close to selection for a Test match . After the tour , Ganteaume played just twice more for Trinidad in first @-@ class cricket , and ended his career with 2 @,@ 785 first @-@ class runs at an average of 34 @.@ 81 and five centuries . Having played just one Test innings , Ganteaume was left with a Test batting average of 112 . This is higher than that of Donald Bradman , who has the highest average of those to play more than 20 innings in a Test career . As of 2013 , his average is the highest by a former player to have appeared in a solitary Test in their career .

There are several possible reasons why Ganteaume played no further Test cricket after his single match . Apart from the slow pace of his batting during that hundred ? Goddard later suggested that it would have been better for Ganteaume 's career to score a rapid 60 than a slow hundred ? West Indies ' batting was strong at the time and there was plenty of competition for places in the team . Even so , his team @-@ mate and later West Indies captain Jeff Stollmeyer suggested that he was unlucky to be left out of subsequent teams . It is also possible that Ganteaume was affected by his attitude to authority . The cricket journalist Martin Williamson suggests : " Ganteaume probably paid as much for his anti @-@ establishment attitude as for slow scoring . He was certainly not someone who was going to bow and scrape to the white players who still dominated the region 's cricket . " In later years , Ganteaume served as a Test selector and was West Indies manager in 1973 ? 74 . In 2007 , his autobiography , My Story : The Other Side of the Coin was published , in which he criticised the West Indies " establishment " of his playing days . He died at the age of 95 on 17 February 2016 . At the time of his death he was the oldest surviving West Indies Test cricketer , and the second oldest in the world .