

= Edwin St Hill =

Edwin Lloyd St Hill (9 March 1904 ? 21 May 1957) was a Trinidadian cricketer who played two Test matches for the West Indies in 1930 . His brothers , Wilton and Cyl , also played for Trinidad ; in addition , the former played Test matches for the West Indies . St Hill first played local cricket in Trinidad with some success and graduated to the Trinidad team . He played regularly for the next five years but was not selected for any representative West Indian teams . His increased success in 1929 attracted the attention of the West Indies selectors , and he played two Test matches against England in 1930 . Although not particularly successful , he bowled steadily and was chosen to tour Australia with the West Indies in 1930 ? 31 . He was fairly effective in first @-@ class games but the form of the other fast bowlers in the team meant that he was not chosen for any of the Test matches .

By the time the tour was over , St Hill had signed a contract to play professional cricket in the Lancashire League in England for Lowerhouse Cricket Club . Playing as an all @-@ rounder , he performed relatively well with bat and ball for three seasons from 1931 to 1933 . He then played as a professional in several leagues , including the Huddersfield and Bradford leagues . During the Second World War , he joined the British Army and took part in the Dunkirk evacuation before returning to England ; he resumed his league career and played many wartime charity games . He died in Manchester , aged 53 .

= = Early life and career = =

St Hill was born in Port of Spain , Trinidad in 1904 , and according to the writer C. L. R. James , his family were lower middle @-@ class . His brothers , Wilton and Cyl played cricket for Trinidad ; in addition , the former played Test matches for the West Indies . St Hill first played in the Bonanza Cup , Trinidad 's main cricket competition , for a club called Durban Cricket Club in 1922 ; critics judged him to be promising , but he had little success . The following year , he moved to play for Shannon . Cricket in Trinidad at the time was divided along racial lines . Shannon was a club associated with black lower middle @-@ class players such as teachers or clerks . The team contained many strong bowlers , and St Hill opened the bowling .

St Hill 's success with Shannon was noticed by the regional selectors , and in 1924 he progressed to the Trinidad team ; he made his first @-@ class debut against British Guiana in the Inter @-@ Colonial Tournament on 14 February 1924 . He opened the bowling with his Shannon team @-@ mate , Learie Constantine , and took six wickets in the match . He played in the next game , the final of the tournament against Barbados , and took a further five wickets in the game , but his team lost . Over the following five years , he played regularly for Trinidad , and bowled with success for Shannon . He took four for 99 in an innings against British Guiana but otherwise did not take more than three wickets in an innings until the 1929 ? 30 season , and after scoring 35 in his second game , he did not pass 20 runs in an innings . Apart from two games for Trinidad against the touring Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) touring team in 1926 , all his games came for Trinidad in the Intercolonial Tournament . He was overlooked for the representative West Indies team to play the MCC in 1926 , several bowlers being ahead of him in terms of selection . Neither was he selected for any of the trial games held to assist in choosing a team in 1928 ; that year , a West Indies team , including his brother Wilton , toured England and played its first Test matches . Instead , St Hill , between June and August 1928 , took part in a tour of the United States by a " West Indian XI " , playing mainly against teams of expatriate West Indians . He was very successful , taking over 100 wickets at a low cost .

= = West Indian cricketer = =

= = = Selection for Test team = = =

In the October 1929 , St Hill recorded his best first @-@ class bowling figures when he took six for 119 (six wickets for 119 runs) against British Guiana in the final of the Intercolonial Tournament ; he took four wickets in the second innings to give him ten in the match , and also scored 67 in Trinidad 's second innings . Although he recorded his best performances with bat and ball , Trinidad still lost . By the following month , the Trinidad Sporting Chronicle considered him among the " second string " of players who were on the borderline of selection for the West Indies team .

In 1930 the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) undertook a tour of the West Indies which included four Test matches ? the first Tests to be played in the West Indies . The MCC side was not at full international strength ; it included players who were either just beginning or just ending their international careers , and several star English bowlers were missing . The first Test was played in Barbados and St Hill was selected , making his debut for the West Indies on 11 February 1930 . He scored 0 and 12 with the bat , took two for 110 from 35 overs in the first innings and was wicketless in the second . The match was drawn . The MCC then travelled to Trinidad and played the cricket team in two games . St Hill played in the first , taking four wickets , but was rested from the second . The Trinidad Sporting Chronicle stated that he was omitted specifically to be ready for the second Test , also played in Trinidad , although he had not asked for a rest . The newspaper questioned why he had then been left out of the team for the Test match , and reported speculation that his omission was for political reasons to discredit the leadership of George Dewhurst , the Trinidad captain in the second game . It suggested that , given his ability with bat and ball , St Hill was worth a net 100 runs to any team in which he played . Having been omitted from the second Test , which West Indies lost , St Hill played in the third in British Guiana . West Indies won the game ; St Hill batted at number eleven in the batting order in his first innings , at number five in the second and scored three runs in each innings . With the ball , he took only one wicket and did not play another Test . A review of the series in the Barbados Advocate suggested that St Hill bowled steadily during both his Test appearances , but that his economical bowling figures in British Guiana were slightly unrepresentative as the English batsmen had been concentrating entirely on defence . The article stated that St Hill was more effective on matting pitches than on turf , but that he had many supporters in Trinidad . It believed he warranted a place on the forthcoming West Indian tour of Australia , but that he needed to work on his fielding , which was weak .

In August 1930 , St Hill signed a contract to play professional cricket in the Lancashire League in England , which meant that he was no longer eligible to play cricket for Shannon or Trinidad . At the time , competition rules barred professional cricketers from taking part . Consequently , the first @-@ class matches he played in Australia were the last of his career . In his eight seasons in the Bonanza Cup , St Hill took 224 wickets at an average of 9 @.@ 42 , and topped the bowling averages for the competition in 1924 and 1929 .

= = = Tour to Australia = = =

The West Indies played five Test matches in Australia in the 1930 ? 31 season . They lost the series 4 ? 1 and could not match the Australian team . St Hill played seven matches on the Australia tour , including four that were first @-@ class , but did not feature in any of the Tests . Against Tasmania he had first @-@ innings figures of four for 57 and against Victoria he took six wickets in the game . In total , he took 16 wickets at an average of 29 @.@ 81 , but his highest score in eight innings was 9 . A summary of the tour printed in the Sporting Chronicle of Trinidad suggested that St Hill had bowled well during his limited opportunities , but the success and form of the other three fast bowlers in the team meant that he had little chance to reach the Test team or to distinguish himself . A later article in the Daily Gleaner of Jamaica suggested that " sources " had told the newspaper " the reason for the infrequent playing of Edwin St Hill " , but did not elaborate .

After this tour , St Hill played no further first @-@ class cricket . In 17 games , he scored 274 runs at an average of 11 @.@ 91 and took 64 wickets at 28 @.@ 62 .

= = Professional cricketer in England = =

= = = With Lowerhouse = = =

For the 1931 season , Lowerhouse , the Lancashire League club which had finished bottom of the league in 1931 , signed St Hill as their professional cricketer . He was one of three West Indians playing professional league cricket in England , the others being Learie Constantine and George Francis . Early in the season , he spoke publicly to express his thanks for the welcome he had received .

In 1931 , Lowerhouse finished in equal fourth place , its best position in the league since 1908 . Reviewing the season , the Burnley News gave credit to St Hill for the revival . Describing him as a dependable batsman , it stated that he had a big impact with the ball . He scored 288 runs at 14 @. @ 40 , with a top score of 46 , to finish third in the club batting averages . He topped the bowling averages with 68 wickets , 46 of which were bowled , at 12 @. @ 20 . By the following season , St Hill 's wife had joined him in Lowerhouse . An end of season summary in the Burnley Express suggested that his batting had improved , and that he had surprised people with his ability . He played several longer innings , with a highest score of 85 , and he scored runs by " delightfully played cricket " . He headed the batting and bowling averages for the club with 477 runs at 20 @. @ 73 and 77 wickets at 13 @. @ 87 . However , the report stated that his bowling had been inconsistent and that it was surprising that he ended with such a good average . Nevertheless , his figures stood comparison with other leading professionals in the Lancashire League . The club dropped to equal fifth in the league .

St Hill 's contract ended in 1933 , a less successful season for the club . Lowerhouse finished equal 11th . St Hill topped the batting and bowling averages again . He increased his batting average to 28 @. @ 66 in scoring 602 runs , including a century , and according to the Burnley Express , gave " some delightful batting exhibitions " . With the ball , he was less successful , taking 56 wickets at 18 @. @ 82 . By then , St Hill had signed a new contract to play for Slaithwaite cricket club in the Huddersfield League . St Hill stated that he had been treated very kindly at Lowerhouse . At the end of the season , he returned to Trinidad for the winter . At this stage of his career , although his progress was still followed by the press in the West Indies , he was no longer a realistic Test match prospect . Other West Indians who played league cricket continued to be selected for the Test team , or to be considered for selection .

= = = Later life and career = = =

Slaithwaite were a moderate club in the Huddersfield League , where the quality of cricket was not as strong as in the Lancashire League . St Hill spent just one season at Slaithwaite ; his contract was not renewed at the end of the season , but the club awarded him a benefit match , in which Slaithwaite played a team chosen by Learie Constantine . During the season , St Hill was chosen in a team to represent the Huddersfield League against the Bradford League .

St Hill subsequently played in the Bradford League , first for East Bierley cricket club , then in 1937 he signed for Spen Victoria for whom he played until 1939 . He was particularly successful for Spen Victoria ; for instance , in 1939 he was the first bowler in the league to reach 50 wickets , but at the time the Bradford League had fallen in both popularity and standards . He missed the 1940 season ? he had joined the army and took part in the Dunkirk evacuation . But he returned the following season , after being demobilised , and remained in the Bradford League until the end of the Second World War . He also appeared in several wartime charity games ; many were for a " West Indies XI " made up of West Indians living or working in England in wartime . In 1947 , St Hill returned to Slaithwaite , where he acted as the team 's reserve professional . By 1948 , he was playing as a professional at Kearsley cricket club in the Bolton Cricket League . In later years , the cricketer Jack Bond recalled St Hill as a very effective coach at the club , where Bond spent his early years . St Hill continued playing league cricket until 1951 .

St Hill died in Withington , Manchester , on 21 May 1957 .

= = Style and technique = =

St Hill 's bowling style led critics to name him the " Maurice Tate of the West Indies " ; Tate was a leading English bowler of the period who took 155 Test match wickets . In the late @-@ 1920s , St Hill was judged to be a cricketer of potential . At the time , a critic in Barbados rated him " medium to fast " , but noted that he was not as effective on turf pitches as he was on matting , and his fielding was weak . An article in the Trinidad Sporting Chronicle from the same period named him as " the best fast medium bowler in the West Indies " . It noted that he was capable of bowling to slow the scoring of runs , or to attempt to dismiss the batsmen , a good fielder and a fast @-@ scoring batsman . It called him a " real Test match cricketer " , and " a player whose accuracy of length , swerve and pace makes him an asset to any team and the equal of Constantine and Griffith at their best . " At the time he joined Lowerhouse , a profile in a Burnley newspaper stated that he was a steady bowler who kept to a consistent good length . Additionally , he was a good , although " impetuous " batsman .

More recent writers have judged him by his mediocre Test and first @-@ class statistical record . The cricket writer Martin Williamson , writing on the ESPNcricinfo website , believes his two Test match performances to have been " unimpressive " and judges : " In fairness , he was no more than a moderate late @-@ order batsman and regulation medium @-@ pacer " . Tony Barker , in his history of the Bradford League , calls St Hill " moderately talented " , and suggests that his success for Spen Victoria shows that the standard of play in the league at the time was poor . In her book on West Indian Test cricketers , Bridgette Lawrence describes him as " a capable all @-@ rounder " who " performed modestly " in his only Test series .