

= Maurice Fernandes =

Maurius Pacheco " Maurice " Fernandes , (12 August 1897 ? 8 May 1981) was a West Indian Test cricketer who played first @-@ class cricket for British Guiana between 1922 and 1932 . He made two Test appearances for the West Indies , in 1928 and 1930 . Fernandes played as a right @-@ handed top @-@ order batsman and occasional wicket @-@ keeper . He scored 2 @,@ 087 first @-@ class runs in 46 appearances at an average of 28 @.@ 20 .

Graduating from playing at the Demerara Cricket Club as a teenager , to play for British Guiana in 1922 , Fernandes took part in tours of England in 1923 and 1928 . He made his debut Test appearance during the 1928 tour , playing in the first of the three Tests . His next , and final Test match came during the English tour of the West Indies in 1930 . At the time , the West Indies had a practice of picking their captain from the colony that the match was being played in , and Fernandes was granted the honour for the match in British Guiana . The West Indies won the match , their maiden victory in Test cricket . After the match , Fernandes only played one further first @-@ class match , and retired from first @-@ class cricket in 1932 .

= = Early life and career = =

Maurius Pacheco Fernandes was born in Georgetown , Demerara , British Guiana on 12 August 1897 . He played for the Demerara Cricket Club as a teenager , gaining a reputation as a good cricketer , and made his debut for British Guiana during the 1922 Inter @-@ Colonial Tournament , facing Trinidad . Playing as an opening batsman , Fernandes scored a duck in his first innings , but made 25 runs in the second .

He was part of the West Indian team that toured England in 1923 , playing twenty first @-@ class matches against county and representative opposition . Fernandes played in over half of the matches , and passed fifty on three occasions against first @-@ class opposition . He had reached 83 not out when his side declared against Northamptonshire , and reached 73 runs in the second innings against Lancashire in the next match , having narrowly missed out in the first innings , when he scored 49 . His highest score of the tour , and his maiden first @-@ class century came against Leicestershire , when he hit 110 runs . In A History of Cricket , H. S. Altham and E. W. Swanton describe the touring side as one which " proved themselves equal to the best . " The team relied heavily on the batting of George Challenor , who struck six centuries , and it was only Challenor that Fernandes trailed in the batting averages on the tour : he scored 523 runs at an average of 34 @.@ 86 , and was one of only two players other than Challenor to score a century for the West Indies .

During the Inter @-@ Colonial Tournament in October 1925 , Fernandes made significant scores in each of British Guiana 's matches : he scored 89 runs in the first innings of their match against Barbados , helping his side to open up a 144 @-@ run first innings lead , which they converted into an eight wicket victory . In the subsequent match against Trinidad , he reached 124 , but lacked support from his teammates , three of whom fell just short of half @-@ centuries . British Guiana eventually lost the match by two wickets . In the following February , the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) toured the West Indies , playing matches in Barbados , Trinidad , British Guiana and Jamaica . Three of the matches , one in each location excluding Jamaica , was against representative West Indies sides : Fernandes played in the match held in British Guiana , but not in either of the others , and also played in both matches between British Guiana and the touring MCC . In the last of these matches , he was selected as captain of the British Guiana side , and marked the occasion by scoring 120 in his team 's only innings of a drawn match . He remained as captain for the colony 's 1927 match against Barbados , in which their opponents scored 715 / 9 declared : the second highest innings score made against the team .

= = Test cricket = =

Fernandes was part of the West Indian side which toured England in 1928 . After the success of their 1923 tour , three of the matches were granted Test status . The team played 30 first @-@

class matches , but in contrast to their previous tour , they won just five of them . Altham and Swanton describe the side as being " substantially less formidable combination than the West Indies of ' 23 . " The touring side lacked a regular wicket @-@ keeper , and as a result Fernandes and the West Indian captain Karl Nunes shared the duties , though Nunes kept in all three Tests . Both were expensive on occasion : against Ireland , Fernandes allowed 25 byes in one innings , and Nunes the same number against Nottinghamshire . Fernandes ' batting was significantly less effective than it had been five years before ; he passed fifty on only three occasions , making 73 against both Ireland , and Cambridge University , and 54 against Middlesex . He played in the first Test match , the West Indies ' first appearance in Test cricket , facing England at Lord 's . Batting at number three in each innings , he scored a duck in the first , and eight runs in the second after the West Indies had been forced to follow @-@ on . England won the match by an innings and 58 runs . Fernandes played 20 of the first @-@ class matches in the tour , and scored 581 runs at an average of 18 @. @ 15 .

During the 1929 Inter @-@ Colonial Tournament , Fernandes made the highest score of his first @-@ class career during a seven @-@ day match against Barbados . After the early dismissal of captain Maurice Green , Fernandes joined Jeremy McKenzie at the crease . The pair added 177 runs for the second wicket before McKenzie was run out for 74 . Fernandes then shared another century partnership with Frank de Caires , before being dismissed for 141 . British Guiana won the match by 391 runs to progress to the final , in which they faced Trinidad . Fernandes scored half @-@ centuries in both innings of the final , scoring 88 runs in the first and 54 runs in the second to help his side to a four wicket victory .

Early the following year , a weakened English cricket team toured the West Indies , playing four Tests and eight other first @-@ class matches . Fernandes captained British Guiana in both of their matches against the MCC , each of which was lost by an innings . Generally , the West Indies named a different captain for each of their home matches , commonly selecting a player from the host colony for the honour due to financial constraints . Fernandes was chosen as captain for the Test played at Bourda , Georgetown , British Guiana . The first two Tests had resulted in a draw and an English victory . Fernandes won the toss and elected to bat first . Clifford Roach and Errol Hunte opened the batting for the West Indies and scored 144 runs together for the opening partnership before Hunte was out for 53 . George Headley then joined Roach at the crease , and the pair took the score onto 336 before Roach was dismissed after reaching his double century . Fernandes and Headley took the score up to 400 , of which Fernandes added 22 . The remaining batsmen were dismissed for a combined 71 ; Headley scored a century and the West Indies were all out for 471 . The England team was then bowled out for 145 , a first innings deficit of 326 . Despite the healthy lead , Fernandes chose not to enforce the follow @-@ on , and the West Indies batted again to score 290 , leaving England requiring 617 runs in the fourth innings to achieve victory . Patsy Hendren scored a century for the visitors , but no other batsman reached 50 runs , and with just four minutes of the match remaining , the West Indies secured their maiden Test win by 289 runs .

= = Later career and life = =

After his single match as West Indies Test captain , Fernandes did not appear for the West Indies again , and only made one further appearance for British Guiana , scoring 78 and 7 against Trinidad in the 1932 Inter @-@ Colonial Tournament final . Fernandes is described in his Wisden Cricketers ' Almanack obituary as being " an obdurate batsman " , and was praised for his cutting and driving during the 1923 tour of England . He remained a private individual throughout his cricketing career , a characteristic which became stronger after his retirement from cricket . He had one son , Leslie , who played one first @-@ class match for Guyana in the 1960 ? 61 season , and died in a car accident in 1978 aged 39 . After this , Fernandes ' health , already poor , deteriorated rapidly , and he died on 8 May 1981 , aged 83 .