

= Joe Small (cricketer) =

Joseph A. " Joe " Small (3 November 1892 ? 26 April 1958) was a West Indian cricketer who played in West Indies ' first Test in their inaugural Test tour of England . He scored the first half century for a West Indies player in Test cricket and played two further Test matches in his career . An all @-@ rounder , he played domestic cricket for Trinidad between 1909 and 1932 .

Small first played cricket in Trinidad for a club of low social status . After establishing himself in the Trinidad team , he soon made a name for himself as a batsman and was one of the few black batsmen in the West Indies team at the time . For Trinidad , he was one of the cricketers instrumental in breaking the dominance of the Barbados cricket team in the Inter @-@ Colonial Tournament . He first played for West Indies in 1912 ? 13 and , after the First World War , was chosen to tour England twice . He was moderately successful on the 1923 tour , but was less effective in 1928 . Small played in the middle of the batting order ; he bowled either medium @-@ fast or off breaks . He died in 1958 .

= = Early career = =

Small was born in Princes Town , Trinidad , in 1892 . He first played cricket for a club in Trinidad called Stingo , which included players from the lowest social class . Cricket in Trinidad at the time was divided along racial lines . For cricket clubs on the island , the colour of a player 's skin was crucial . Stingo was described by writer and historian C. L. R. James : " They were plebeians : the butcher , the tailor , the candlestick maker , the casual labourer , with a sprinkling of unemployed . Totally black and of no social status whatever . " James described Small as a genial presence on the cricket field : " Small talked to everybody and everybody talked to him : Joe radiated good nature and self @-@ satisfaction . " Outside of his cricket career , Small worked for the Stores Department of Trinidad Leaseholds oil company .

Small made his first @-@ class debut for Trinidad on 11 November 1909 , playing against a team chosen by WC Shepherd . Small scored 13 and 0 in the match and bowled two over without taking a wicket . The following January , Small made his first appearance for Trinidad in the Inter @-@ Colonial Tournament ; he scored seven runs in his only innings and took four for 16 in British Guiana 's first innings . In the final against Barbados , he took one wicket in the game and scored 17 and 8 in his two innings . Trinidad won the match . Later that year , Small played against Barbados again , in the final of the next Inter @-@ Colonial Tournament , but had little success in that match , nor in the 1912 tournament when his best score in two games was 15 runs , and he took a total of three wickets . In both instances , Barbados won the tournament .

= = International cricketer = =

= = = Playing for West Indies = = =

During the 1912 ? 13 season , the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) toured West Indies , playing in Barbados , Trinidad and British Guiana . The MCC played two matches against each island and faced a representative West Indies side in each location . Small played for Trinidad against the tourists ; he made scores of 25 and 26 , and took seven for 49 in the MCC first innings , adding another wicket in the second innings . Although that match was lost by Trinidad , the second game was drawn . Small scored 28 runs and took one wicket in the game . He was included in the West Indies team which played at Port of Spain , but had little success .

Small did not play more first @-@ class cricket until after the First World War , but during the war he played in Egypt alongside future West Indian captain Karl Nunes . When he resumed his Trinidad career in 1920 , he played in two games against Barbados . In the first , he scored 33 and 62 , his first score over fifty in first @-@ class cricket . In the second , he scored 102 not out , his maiden century . He also took three wickets in total in the games , both of which were won by Barbados . In

1921 , the Inter @-@ Colonial Tournament resumed , but despite playing both games , Small had little success . During the 1922 tournament , Small scored 33 and 82 against British Guiana and took three for 46 Guiana 's first innings . Having beaten Guiana , Trinidad lost to Barbados once more in the final in which Small scored 36 and 5 , but took only two wickets in 35 overs .

= = = First tour of England = = =

In 1923 , the West Indies toured England . Five players were selected from Trinidad , including Small . At the time , West Indian batsmen were traditionally white , but according to James , " Joe Small had made for himself a place as a batsman which could not be denied . " James writes that there was a perception in Trinidad that Small owed his place to his genial nature , but that the selectors did not want any further black batsmen in the side . When the tour began , Small scored 53 in his second game but bowled infrequently . After a run of low scores , he scored 94 and 68 against Lancashire at Old Trafford Cricket Ground . The press praised the innings , particularly Small 's use of the drive . James remembered in later years that Small " startled Old Trafford in 1923 with his driving " . After taking six wickets in a minor game , Small took five for 93 and scored 71 against Nottinghamshire in his next first @-@ class match . He bowled 53 overs in the game , by far his greatest number on the tour . He scored a century in another minor match , followed by 85 in a first @-@ class game against Warwickshire and another three first @-@ class fifties in the remainder of the season . In all first @-@ class matches , he scored 776 runs at an average of 31 @.@ 04 , placing him third in the team 's batting averages . With the ball , he took 19 wickets at an average of 33 @.@ 47 .

According to C. L. R. James , Small was asked by either Hampshire or Sussex to qualify to play for their team after the tour , as other West Indian cricketers had done after previous tours . However , he refused . According to James , this contrasted with the ambition of others in the team : " Through cricket , steadiness of character and a limited outlook Joe had made a place for himself that was quite satisfactory to him " .

= = = Inter @-@ Colonial Tournament winner = = =

Small returned to play for Trinidad in the 1924 Inter @-@ Colonial Tournament ; he scored 62 in the first match but failed in the final against Barbados . He had more success in the February 1925 tournament . After scoring 72 , he took six for 43 to help his team defeat British Guiana . Then in the final , Trinidad defeated Barbados for the first time since 1910 . Small scored 2 and 36 ; with the ball he took five for 34 in the first innings and four for 62 in the second innings to bowl Trinidad to a 13 @-@ run win . Later in the same year , Trinidad retained their title with a two @-@ wicket victory over British Guiana . Small scored 133 in his first innings and took three wickets in British Guiana 's second innings . In January 1926 , the MCC toured West Indies again , playing matches against the islands and a combined West Indies side . Small played twice for Trinidad and three times for West Indies against the touring team , but managed just 106 runs with one fifty in eight innings , and took 11 wickets . In January 1927 , Small scored 100 against Barbados , but although his team established a lead of 384 runs , Trinidad lost after Barbados scored 726 in their second innings ; Small bowled 60 overs in the second innings to take two wickets .

= = Test cricketer = =

= = = Test match debut = = =

West Indies were scheduled to tour England in 1928 , including their first Test matches . The selectors organised three trial matches in Barbados in December 1927 and January 1928 . Small was dismissed only twice in five innings and scored 217 runs with a top @-@ score of 81 . He also took five wickets , and was selected to go on the tour . However , he was less successful than on

the 1923 tour . Although several batting records were established by English players in a season that produced good batting conditions , Small 's batting average fell and , in common with many of his team @-@ mates , he was generally unsuccessful with the bat . Although he managed a century against Oxford University , he scored only 595 runs at an average of 18 @.@ 59 . He was more successful in bowling ; he fulfilled a supporting role with the ball , took 50 wickets at an average of 20 @.@ 88 and finished third in the team 's bowling averages . Wisden Cricketers ' Almanack noted that , compared to 1923 , " Small fell off considerably " with the bat , and that his " increased measure of success " with the ball did not compensate for the failure of other bowlers .

West Indies lost every game in the three @-@ Test series . In the first Test , Small took two wickets in England 's innings and scored 0 in his first innings . But in the second innings , he scored 52 , West Indies ' first half @-@ century in Test matches . Wisden recorded : " Small , batting in fine form for an hour and a half , enjoyed the distinction of making the only score of over 50 for his side . " He also played in the third Test , but took no wickets and scored 0 and 2 .

= = = End of career = = =

During the 1928 ? 29 Inter @-@ Colonial Tournament , Small took four for 14 in Trinidad 's first match , but contributed little else as Trinidad won the competition . Later in the year , he took seven for 77 for a West Indies XI against an English team led by Julien Cahn which was playing in Jamaica ; he and two others joined the Jamaican team for this game . Trinidad lost to British Guiana in the 1929 ? 30 tournament , and Small did little in the game . An MCC team toured West Indies again that season , and Small played in one of Trinidad 's two matches against the touring team . Although he was not successful , he was chosen for the second Test of the four @-@ match series between England and West Indies , played in Trinidad . He took one wicket and scored 20 and 5 in the match . This was his final Test match . In three Test matches , he scored 79 runs at an average of 13 @.@ 16 and took 3 wickets at 61 @.@ 33 .

Small only played twice more in first @-@ class cricket . There was no first @-@ class cricket in West Indies during the 1930 ? 31 season , but he played in the Trinidad team which won the 1931 ? 32 Inter @-@ Colonial Tournament . In his final first @-@ class innings , he scored 66 and he took a wicket with his final delivery . In his career , he scored 3 @,@ 063 first @-@ class runs at a batting average of 26 @.@ 17 and took 165 wickets at an average of 27 @.@ 81 . Small continued to play successfully in South Trinidad in local leagues until the early 1940s . He died following a short illness in Pointe @-@ à @-@ Pierre , Trinidad , on 26 April 1958 at the age of 65 , having been largely forgotten in the West Indies . However , in 1984 , he was entered into the Trinidad and Tobago Sports Hall of Fame .

= = Style and technique = =

His Wisden obituary states that Small was a " tall , loose @-@ limbed all @-@ rounder , who did much fine work for Trinidad " . In The Complete Record of West Indian Test Cricketers , Bridgette Lawrence states : " Joe Small was one of West Indies ' pioneering all @-@ rounders in Test cricket . He was a gifted batsman with all the strokes at his command , a medium @-@ pace off @-@ break bowler and a competent slip fielder . " The Daily Gleaner gave Small credit , along with other Trinidadian cricketers of the time , for overcoming the dominance of the Barbados team . Wisden also described him as a " splendid " slip fielder . Small batted in a variety of positions in the batting order , but usually lower than number three . He sometimes opened the bowling and was capable of bowling quickly . He also bowled off spin at medium pace ; his height made him quite difficult for batsmen to face .

C. L. R. James wrote about Small in his book Beyond a Boundary . He described an unimportant match where Small was facing the fast bowler George John ; he deliberately hit the ball hard back at John 's feet to make him angry . He also wrote about practising with Small : " International cricketers are not as ordinary men . There might be only two boys fielding , but if you bowled Joe a half @-@ volley outside the off stump , he hit with all his force , though he would have to wait until the ball

came back from 150 yards . Then he would bowl at me for ten minutes . "