

Another honour given to Walsh

BN-Walsh/Courtney

FORMER JAMAICA and West Indies fast bowler and world record holder Courtney Walsh received yet another recognition of his efforts from the Government of Jamaica at a banquet in his honour at the Pegasus Hotel on Thursday night.

Walsh, Ambassador at Large, member of the Order of Distinction Commander Class (CD), and member of the Order of Jamaica (OJ), now has an award named after him - The Courtney Walsh Award for Excellence.

The award was announced by Prime Minister P.J. Patterson to a resounding round of applause from the 600 guests, among them the Minister of Local Government and Sport, Portia Simpson Miller.

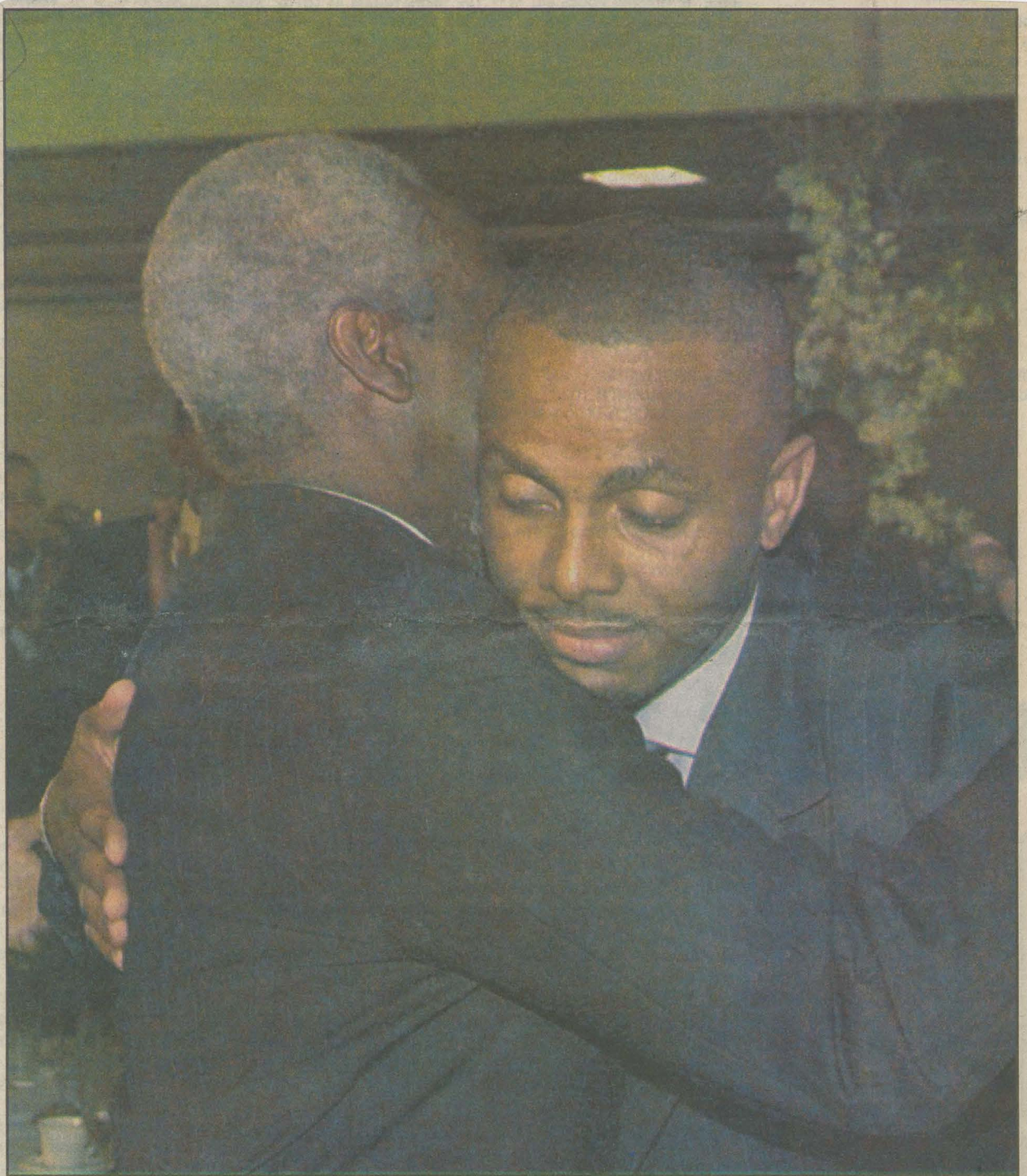
The award, to be presented annually starting this year and valued at \$500,000, will go to persons, men or women between 18 and 30, who have represented Jamaica in sports and who, said the Prime Minister while delivering the keynote address, "have reflected high performance, the qualities of national pride, fine conduct on and off the field, as well as what I would call grit and determination".

According to Prime Minister Patterson, "Courtney Walsh will never ever be forgotten for his magnificent performances on the cricket fields wherever he has played, but moreso for his sportsmanship, for the dignity with which he played the game, and for that we salute him".

Sharing the limelight with Walsh was Michael Holding who was presented with the instrument of appointment as an Ambassador at Large and Special Envoy.

In presenting the red passport to Holding, who took 249 wickets and is rated one of the greatest fast bowlers of all time, the Prime Minister referred to it as "the red cherry" and commended him for his quality as a fast bowler and as a broadcaster.

"In presenting this to you, my hope is that you will continue to distinguish yourself in the field of cricket broadcasting and analysis and make a contribution to our game as you did when you were the Rolls Royce."



WINSTON SILL/*Freelance Photographer*

Courtney Walsh (right) receives a congratulatory hug from Prime Minister P.J. Patterson during Thursday night's ceremony to honour the great Jamaican and West Indian fast bowler at a banquet at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel in New Kingston.