

Mark: a tower of ambition

BY BOB WEST

Lanky six footer Courtney Walsh known to his Excelsior schoolmates as Mark — is a very ambitious youngster.

The youth wants to be an Accountant, and hinted that he intends to work here when he leaves School.

Mark specialises in Accounts and Commerce at School because he is sure they are the right combination when one is involved with Business of this nature.

He concentrates on six subjects at XLCR, the others being Biology, History, Mathematics and English language.

"I feel it is much easier to get an Accountant job in this country so I am concentrating on it," the lanky one disclosed.

During his spare time he does research at the Tom Redcam Library but his time is not occupied only by backwork.

Mark guesses that there won't be any improvement in living conditions, working conditions etc ... unless there is a complete revolution.

He calmly told me, "the country will get worst ... man must stop fighting one another over foolishness ... I don't like the strikes, especially when flour is on strike, because that is when I am affected most. I also don't like the soap problem.

Although the International Year of the Child has passed, he still offered some comments.

In his opinion, this move was a failure. He strongly felt that nothing much was achieved, and made three recommendations.

(1) Too many youths are still idle on the streets, so they should bring back the International Year of the Child.

(2) They should build Training Centres and employ

conscious leaders.

(3) Conduct a survey and find out how many undernourished students are in classes, then establish a proper feeding programme for them.

A member of the Skateland Youth Club, Mark enjoys watching skaters such as Herman and Whimpy Goodridge from Molyne's Road and also Maxine from Derrymore Road. They are his favourite skaters.

He loves skating but unfortunately for him, he cannot skate at all. Mark also loves football and basketball but prefers to watch them from the stands or the sidelines.

At XLCR he once trained with the basketball squad, but later decided to play those games only for fun.

One game he plays seriously and that's cricket. I guess that by now you should have realised he is the only schoolboy in local history to capture all 10 wickets in an innings.

Yes! ... he did it one afternoon at Bellevue (playfield) when XLCR played Camperdown in a vital semi-final game. On that cool afternoon he bamboozled his opposing counterparts with clever mixture of pace and spin and claimed all 10 wickets for 43 runs.

This is really a great performance, considering the fact that bowlers of the calibre of Seymour Newman and Michael Holding played many Sunlight Cup games while at school without creating such tremendous impact.

Now a member of the

Jamaica Youths team, he played against the visiting English Youths, took only one wicket and scored 27 runs.

In his only Senior Cup outing to date, young Walsh had the Police batsmen bobbing and weaving, at Elletson Road during their first round encounter.

Some got out of the way and some got hit by fast lifting deliveries as the youngster generated lively pace, hitting batsmen painfully on the knuckles, under the heart and other parts of their bodies.

In the end he came away seven wickets richer, ending with figures of 7 for 53.

Since leaving Melrose All-Age School in 1977, Courtney started off with a bang, as he picked up 7 for 32 against St. Catherine in a Sunlight match at Antrim in early 1978.

He later picked up 4 for 32 against Kingston College that same year and 5 for 24 against St. Andrew Technical.

He was all smiles as he proudly recalled those two performances. Looking rather carefully at his long fingers, the promising youngster remarked,

"I rate them as my best performances, apart from those 10 wickets against Camperdown ... The pressure was on me ... I had a lot of burden on my shoulders ... but I was able to get vital wickets. Against Kingston College, we went into the semi-final after my four wicket spell."

A member of the Melbourne Cricket Club, Walsh led the 1979 under 17 team to victory in the INSPORTS Region 3, under 18



MARCHING ON PARADE?

... No he is not! Mark appears to be marching, as he displays his towering height.

— Charles Kinkead Photo.

National Library of Jamaica

P.T.O

Cricket League. They won previously in 1975-76, and 78 seasons. In the 1979 Minor League cricket competition, Melbourne outplayed all oppositions to capture the title.

During that year, at the Youth Training Camp, at Up Park Camp he played four matches, took 28 wickets yes! 28 wickets in all, but failed to make the West Indies Youth team! unlucky lad.

Seated beside him was his Cup and Jamaica Youths team-mate Stafford Duffus, alias "Peg Head" — a student at Meadowbrook High School.

"Peg Head" who is also a member of the Skateland Youth Club, lives next door, on Molynees Road.

The left arm leg spinner failed to create much impression in the last Sunlight Cup season, but came on strong in the trials at Camp to gain selection against the visiting English youths.

Cricket fans will remember the afternoon at Melbourne when this tiny left arm spinner reaped 5 for 54 against Clarendon in a Champion of Champions League match. He was then a student at the Tarrant Secondary School a few chains from his home.

Apart from keeping an eye on the national team, in future years, Stafford also wants to make a quick money so that he can help his family. He wants to earn enough money to build a house for his family.

He talked a lot about the horses. His uncle David Duffus is a trainer at Caymanas Park, and he has made regular visits to the track. Stafford loves the filly NAHEELAH, but has never ridden a horse.

Some years ago he sat on the back of KIND LADY, but he still thinks he can be a good rider one of these fine days.

"There is nothing sweeter than when I watched the 'Prentis' den work out a horse.

One of the things he don't like is this, "People sell their goods too high, especially the foreign goods which they import here. I am glad to know that they can get the chance to go and buy goods ... but them sell too high with all of that I don't think the Government should stop them from going a foreign."

Mark over at the far corner nodded his head in approval of his friend's statement.

It was at this point that the six footer paid special tribute to

Ruddy Marzouca of Melbourne Cricket Club and Addulla Marzouca Ltd. Now manager-leader for the Melbourne Youth Club, Ruddy was referred to as a man "with lots of feelings for the youths."

Both Mark and "Peg Head" thanked him for the guidance, assistance and above all — the confidence he has shown in them.