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## Tribute to Walsh

THE RICH, poor, young and old came out in their thousands yesterday, to express their heart-felt congratulations to new Test wicket record holder Courtney Walsh, during his celebratory motorcade through the City of Kingston.

Walsh became Test cricket's record high wicket-taker on Monday, when he surpassed India's Kapil Dev's record of 434 wickets by reaching 435 during the final Test match against Zimbabwe.

The 37-year-old fast bowler rode from Sabina Park, the island's centre of cricket, to Melbourne Cricket Club, his club, atop a well-decorated flatbed truck carrying sound systems playing the new record, "Courtney", written by DJ Zumjay.

Highpoint of the motorcade was the final stop, about 12.40 p.m., at Melbourne Oval, Derrymore Road, where Walsh was given a hearty welcome by supporters, many of whom had walked all the way from Sabina Park. Also at the historic occasion was Sheryl Lee-Ralph, the famous Jamaican movie personality and singer.

At his club, the wicket king was presented with a crystal globe on behalf of Melbourne, by Tony Becca, president of Melbourne Cricket Club.

Becca said: "Courtney has become great, not only because of his skills, but also because of his love for the game, his dedication, and his commitment. Courtney played with all his heart for all the teams represented including Melbourne."

"This is the greatest day of my life," Walsh said. The support of the people was great. They came out on the road from early in the morning to

support the motorcade, and also the few team members who came out -- Wavel Hinds and Chris Gayle -- to support me on this occasion. The response from the people was great and everything was well put together," said the former Melrose primary school student.

Walsh made his first extended stop of the motorcade at his former high school, Excelsior, where he was greeted heartily by the school community. There, Walsh was entertained for a few minutes as Excelsior's top cheer-leading group put on a dance for him.

Then it was time for the formalities. Sydney Fenton, acting Principal of Excelsior, welcomed him in brief remarks, following which, Mrs. Cynthia Powell, widow of the Hon. A. Wesley Powell, O.J., founder of Excelsior School, presented with a plaque of honour. West Indies Test batsman, Chris Gayle, Walsh's teammate and himself a past student of Excelsior, was joined in the honours, with Excelsior Headgirl, Cornelia Kenwood, making a similar presentation to him. The ceremony over, the motorcade hit the road again.

On arriving on Arthur Wint Drive, Walsh stepped off the flatbed truck and, to the delight of the crowd and flashing cameramen, stood beside the statue of Bob Marley and raised his hands in the air.

"Missa Walsh, shake mi han'," a woman pleaded. "Mi de pan TV", said another proudly, recognising that she was sharing the spotlight with Walsh.





Junior Downie

*Members of Jamaica's cricket team form a Guard of Honour with bats while toasting Courtney Walsh, at a ceremony at Melbourne Cricket Club yesterday. Behind Walsh is Tony Becca, president Melbourne Cricket Club. ■*