

BN

The Gleaner Tuesday, May 21, 2002.

Courtney Walsh.... humble, talented and full of zest and drive

HE IS quite a talented young man. Humility runs deep within his veins. He is, as colloquially Jamaicans would say, "down to earth". He is never too busy to stop even for a minute to say hi, hello or how are you. This is Courtney Walsh O.J. born on October 30, 1962, and the 1998 Sportsman of the year and the Caribbean's top bowler.

Charles Baudelaire expressed the view that "Nations only produce great men in spite of themselves. Thus the great man is the conqueror of his whole nation". "We are always glad when a great man reassures us of his humility..." This is Courtney

Walsh, great and wise. And as August Wilhelm Iffland said "he is great who can do what he wishes; he is wise who wishes to do what he can". Courtney Walsh, in addition to being a world class cricketer, he is great sportsman and a truly fine Ambassador for Melbourne, Jamaica, and by extension the West Indies.

Courtney Walsh explained that he did not actually chose cricket as a career. "Cricket chose me" Walsh said. In fact, he started playing cricket at Melbourne and later continued at Excelsior. He was quick to point out that he spent a lot of time playing cricket..." and of course it has paid off"

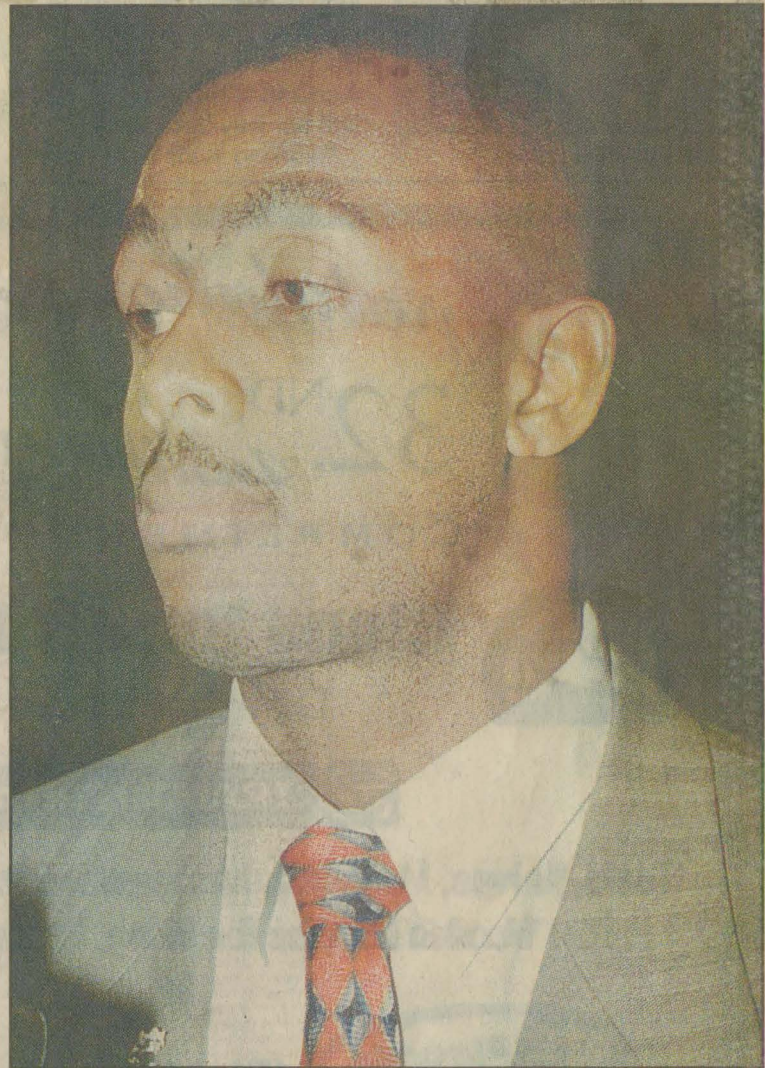
he added. It was in 1982 that he went to England with the West Indies Youth Team.

CONTRACT

However, when he came back to Jamaica, the pearl of the Caribbean, he was offered a contract with Tyndale in North England. He did not turn this down, but he accepted such an offer on graduation in 1983. It was in that year that he was invited to join the Youth West Indies team, and was a member of the team that played Zimbabwe. Walsh also signed a contract with Gloucestershire, one of the two clubs which sought to have his services. Courtney Walsh in look-

ing back was quick to acknowledge that while at Gloucestershire, it was a satisfying experience and his career development was greatly enhanced.

Courtney Walsh pointed out that when he retires from first class cricket, he would dedicate as much time as possible assisting in the development of cricket in the region. His dream of being part and parcel of a sports shop has been realised. As located on 43 Burlington Ave, in Kingston 10, is The Courtney Walsh Sports Goods Ltd, reaching cricketers and sports enthusiasts and doing more for people in a tangible manner. Courtney Walsh explained that this establishment is a team effort and Courtney Walsh Sports Goods Ltd has plans to expand into a much larger place so it can do more for sports, by extending the range of gears needed and satisfy all those persons who hold a special place in their hearts for cricket and sports on a whole.



Courtney Walsh.

FILE

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