

B/W - Walsh, Court

# Walsh gets keys to city

BY CHARMAINE AUSTIN  
*Observer staff reporter*

**JAMAICA** and West Indies fast bowler, Courtney Walsh, yesterday received the keys to the city of Kingston in a civic ceremony held inside the mayor's council room at the Kingston and St Andrew Corporation on Church Street.

Walsh also received a citation and a copy of the order granting him the keys. Both were read by town clerk, Errol Green. Mayor Marie Atkins presented the keys to Walsh.

The 36-year-old cricketer, who was in January named Carreras Sportsman for 1998, accepted the accolades with humility amidst much praise being showered on him by various individuals, especially in the field of sports.

Walsh became the third man in Test cricket history to take 400 wickets when, in his 107th Test for the West Indies, he dismissed Australian Ian Healy leg before wicket in the first Test in this series against Australia in Port of Spain, Trinidad on March 5.

An obviously moved Walsh was close to tears when he replied: "I'm not a man of many words, I'm actually quite speechless at this gesture. I feel honoured that the councillors saw it fit to

**Turn to WALSH on Page 3**

## WALSH from Page 1

bestow this kind of recognition on me. It is also nice to see this mix of people who have turned up here to help share in this moment."

Walsh, a former captain of the West Indies team, also represented and captained English county team Gloucestershire.

With regards to the second Test against Australia which starts at Sabina Park tomorrow, Walsh said: "We are behind in the series, but we now have a chance to correct that.

"We need to win this one and I'm going to do my best to help contribute to that. I'm going to put my best foot forward."

Minister of Labour, Welfare and Sports, Portia Simpson-Miller, lauded Walsh as "a great man, an awesome man and an exemplary athlete". She also praised his mother, Joan Wollaston, who was present at yesterday's presentation, for "giving Jamaica an outstanding son".

She urged the large crowd present to be at Sabina Park on Saturday when the second Test starts, to cheer Walsh on to the world record of 431, currently held by India's Kapil Dev.

"Only 31 Courtney. Only 31. I know you can do it, everyone here has faith in you to get another 31," she preached as the audience shouted "Yes Courtney, only 31" and "Amen".

Guyanese Clive Lloyd, former West Indies captain and current manager of the West Indies team, also had a few words for the outstanding cricketer.

"Courtney is a great example of what an athlete should be. He started his career with me and I am proud to have been a part of his development.

"I'm proud of his many accomplishments so far and I'm sure he can go even further. At the rate he is going, he can reach the 31 in no time. Courtney is evergreen. He's always going.

"What we have here is a gem, an outstanding sportsman, a man for all seasons and all Jamaica should be proud of him."

Also present at yesterday's ceremony were, West Indies Cricket Board president, Pat Rousseau; Jamaica Cricket Board president, Jackie Hendriks; Jamaica Football Federation president, Captain Horace Burrell; track and field Olympian and Carreras Sportswoman of the Year for 1998-99, Sandi Richards; Institute of Sports chairman, Churchill Neita; former West Indies Test player, Patrick Patterson; Jamaica cricketer, Robert Samuels; and Member of Parliament and a deputy leader of the Jamaica Labour Party, Olivia "Babsy" Grange, who was representing opposition leader Edward Seaga.

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF JAMAICA