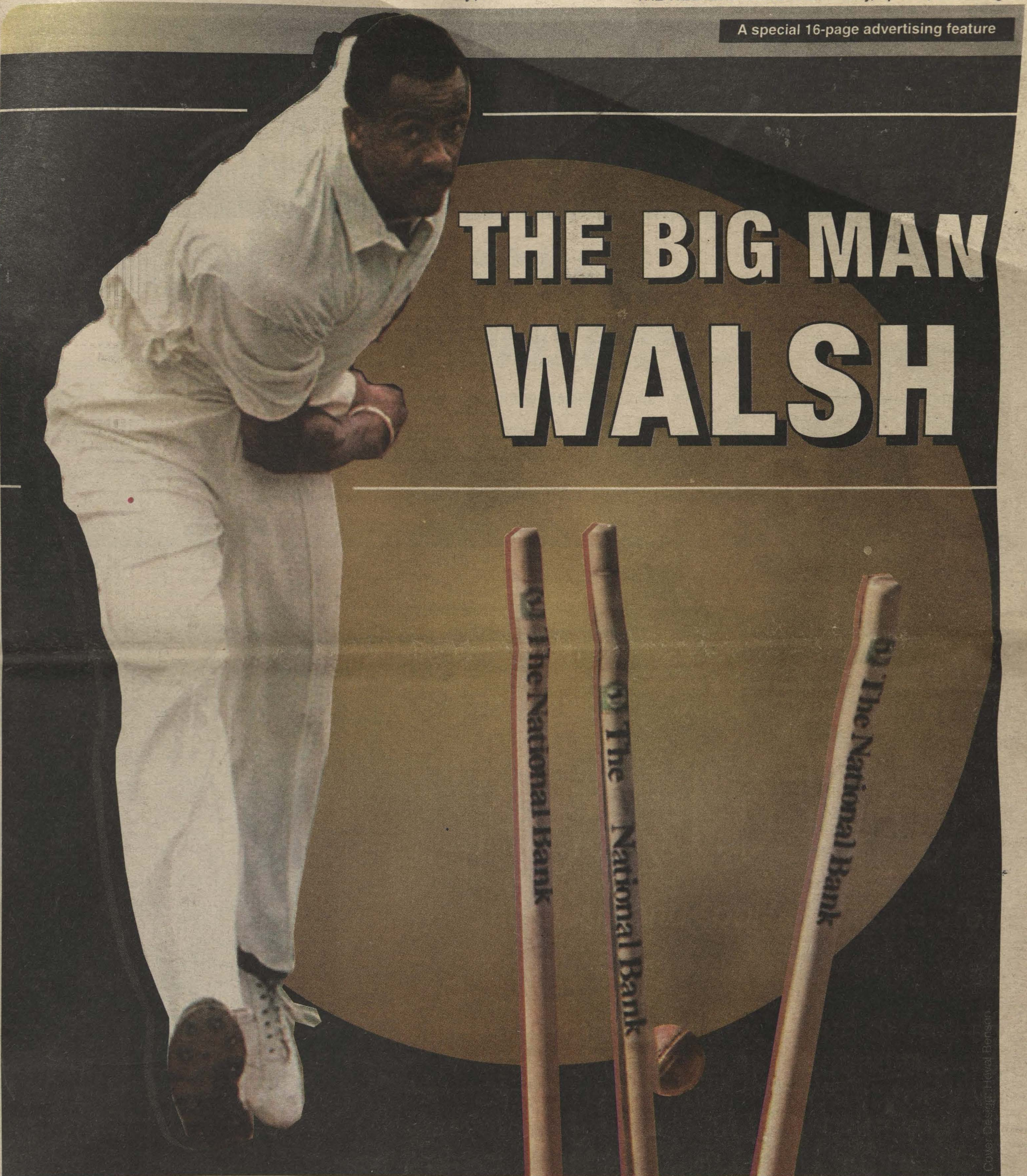


B/N: WALSH, COURTNEY

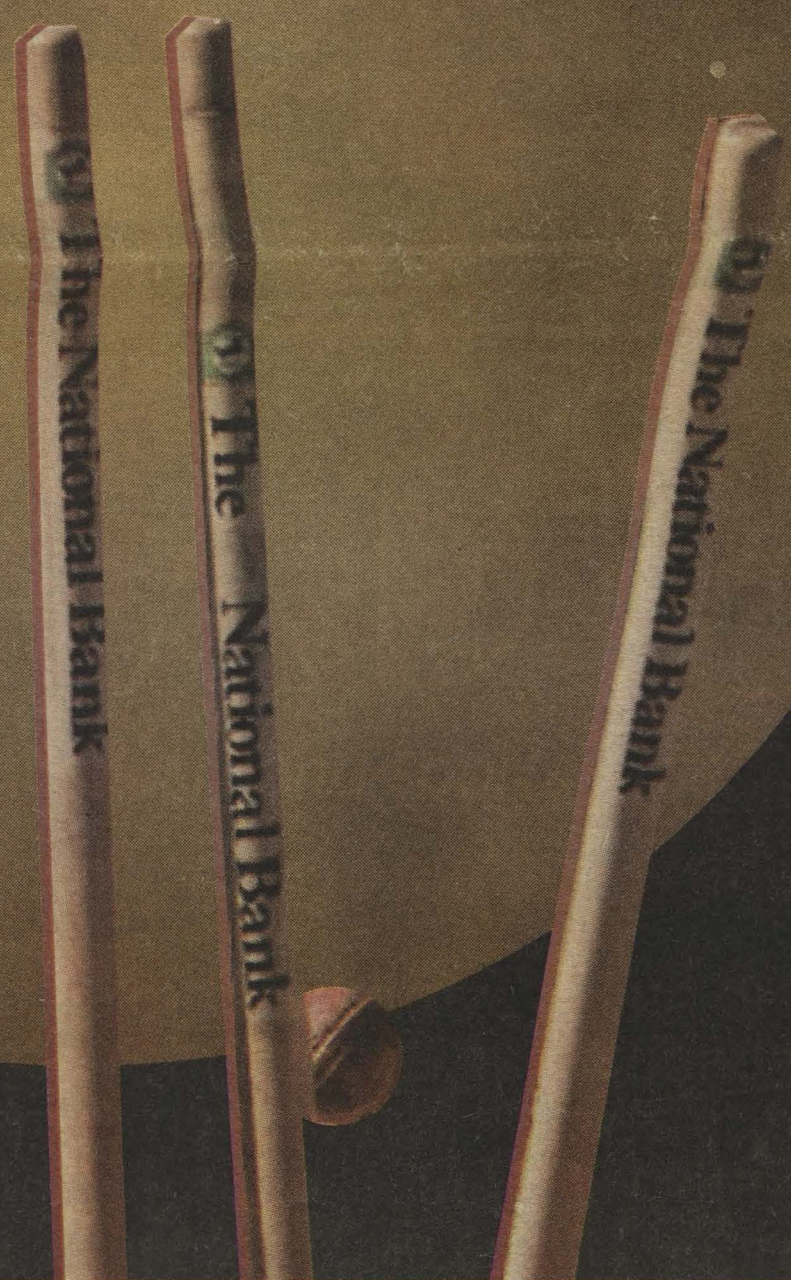
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THE WEEKEND OBSERVER Friday, April 20, 2001 Page 1

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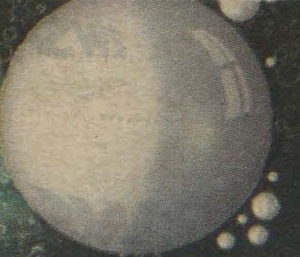
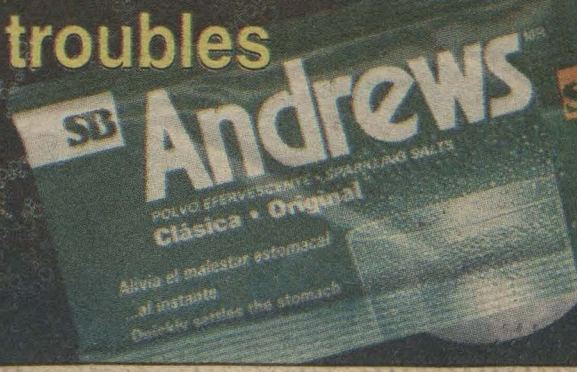


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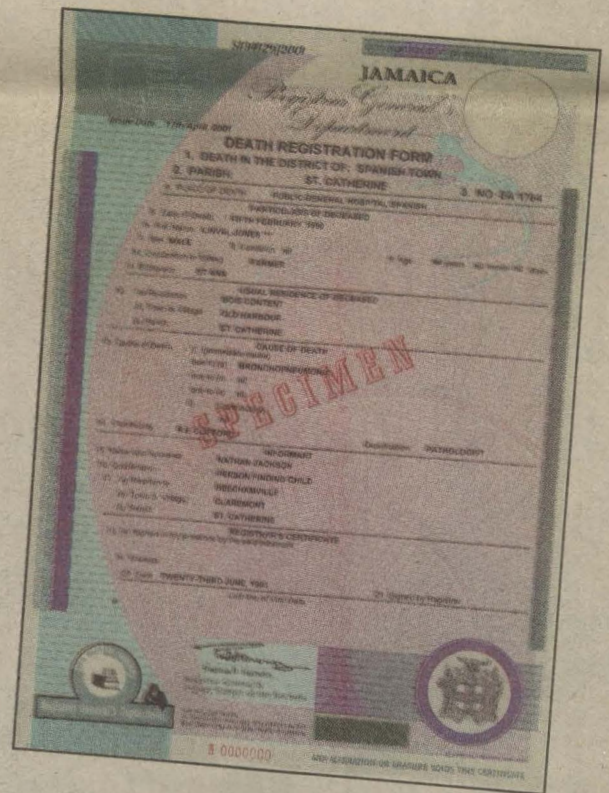
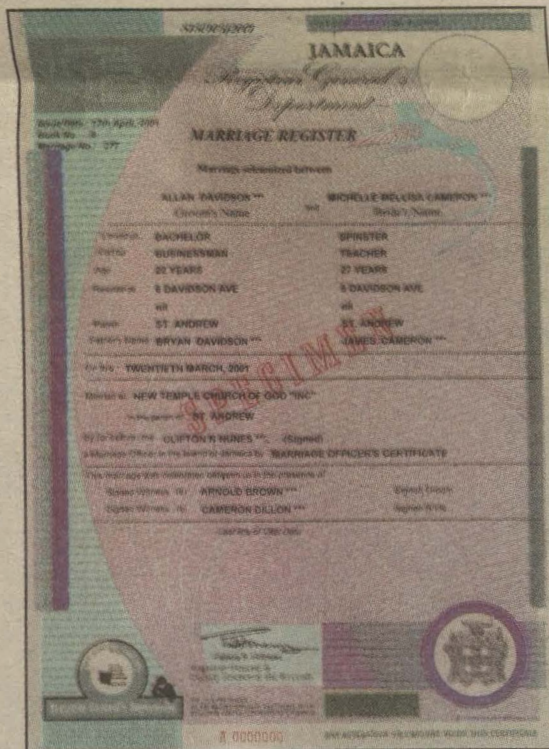
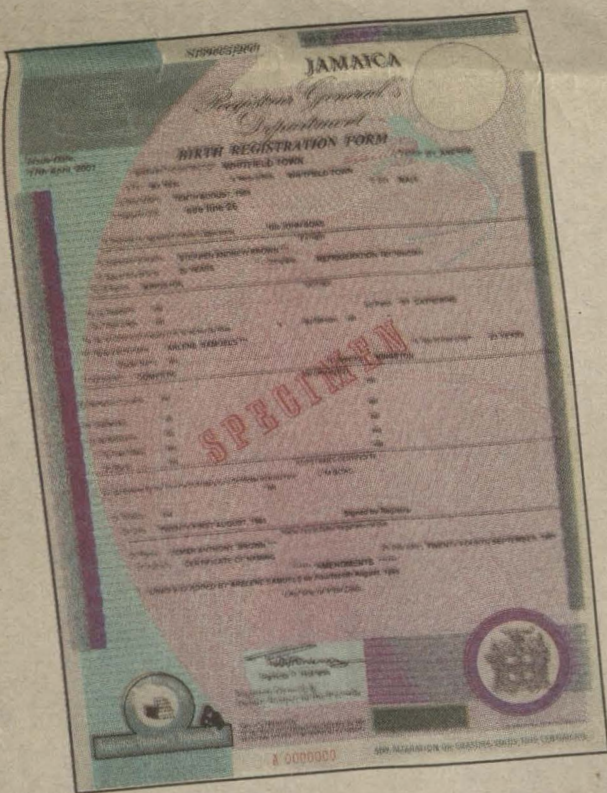
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A TRIBUTE TO COURTNEY WALSH

Encouragement is crucial to success — Wollaston

BY J K COLE

Joan Wollaston, beloved mother of Jamaica's Test record-breaking son, Courtney Andrew Walsh, is issuing a strong call for parents — especially mothers — to help their children build and realise their dreams.

Wollaston, speaking recently with the *Observer*, said it was easy for parents to suppress their children's passion to the detriment of the individual and the wider society.

"When Courtney was a youngster, I didn't have the slightest idea that one day he would be a Test cricketer.

"Between school and Melbourne, he used to spend a lot of time playing cricket, and many times the clothes he was playing in would be so dirty, but I just had to help him take care of his ambition as best as I could," the proud mother disclosed.

Wollaston, who keeps personal custody of all her famous son's memorabilia at her Mona Heights home in Kingston, insists that encouragement and support from parents will invariably bring out the best in their talented offspring.

"With all that sacrifice, I personally am glad that Courtney has reached so far. It was hard work as a single parent, but the

Lord was so good, in that I got a lot of help along the way from family, friends, his teachers and quite a few other people.

"What was not lacking with Courtney was encouragement. I got a lot of encouragement, and I'm so thankful that all of that has been put to good use.

"And this did not happen without discipline. A child must be disciplined in whatever he undertakes to do, and it takes a person a long way, as is evident with Courtney.

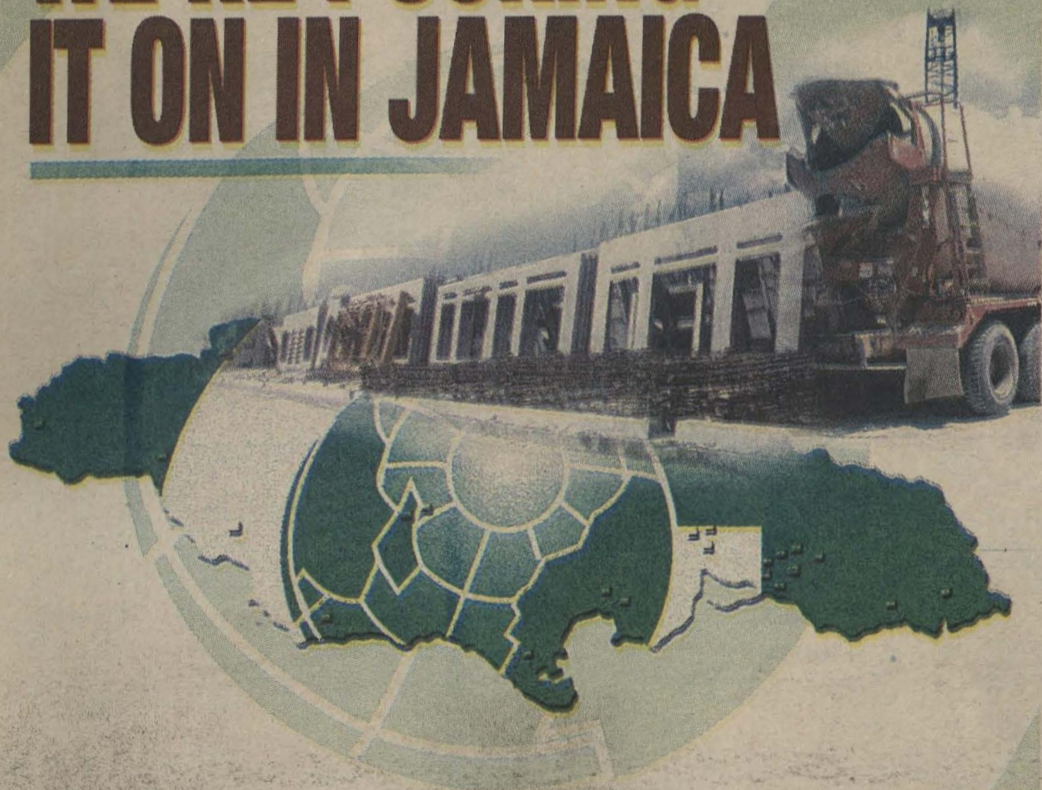
"People ask me from time to time what I did with him for him to display such great determination to succeed, even in the face of set-backs. But I must say that he apparently got that from himself, for I would have given up if I had to face some of the disappointments that he did.

"However, I must thank the people of Jamaica for loving him, for recognising him, and cherishing him for what he has done, and has been doing for his country," Wollaston said.



A WARM EMBRACE: Courtney Walsh gives his mother, Joan Wollaston a big hug after he broke the World Record of 434 Test-wickets last March at Sabina Park. (Photo: Michael Gordon)

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A TRIBUTE TO COURTNEY WALSH

COURTNEY WALSH

— A cricketer and a gentleman

BY GARFIELD MYERS
Observer Sports Editor

For years they called him the most durable fast bowler in world cricket.

Increasingly, as the records have tumbled, they are calling him one of the great fast bowlers of all time.

Courtney Walsh, the 500-wicket man, has seen it all. A member of the great, all conquering West Indies team of the 1980s, he was there as the cracks began to show. He was captain for a while leading heroically from the front — as regional cricket administrators tried desperately to reverse the downward trend.

He is still there, at age 38, soldiering on for his beloved West Indies, as a weak team possibly the weakest Caribbean side of all time struggles to resurrect.

West Indians have grown to love and respect him not just for his cricketer abilities but for his abiding loyalty to his people and his cause, his gentlemanly conduct and the power of his example to the young.

The Jamaican government has awarded him, the Order of Jamaica (OJ) and made him Ambassador-at-Large. Other Caribbean governments have followed up with their own national honours or are preparing to do so.

His impact has perhaps been most accurately summed up by the West Indies Cricket Quarterly of January/March 2000 in a tribute recognising Walsh as one of "20 Giants of the Century" in West Indies cricket:

"No bowler has endured longer, taken more wickets or given

greater uncomplaining service for the West Indies than Courtney Walsh. No other specialist bowler has been Test captain. No cricketer has been more genuinely admired".

He won't go on for much longer. Walsh has indicated that he could call an end to his extraordinary Test career at the end of what is certain to be a highly emotional final Test against the South Africans at Sabina Park. If he doesn't, the short tour of Zimbabwe in July, a place he has never played Test cricket, will surely be his last.

Cricket lovers the world over will sorely miss him.

Born October 30, 1962, just under three months after Jamaica's Independence from colonial Britain, Courtney Andrew Walsh could hardly have missed out on cricket.

He grew up in a humble home, just over the wall from Melbourne Cricket Club, one of Jamaica's best organised and most famous social entities. Club elders still remember with a sort of wonderment, little Courtney "running around" the club and grounds.

It took him a while to work out whether he was a legspinner or a fastbowler. For his school, Excelsior High, he did both with considerable success and his 10-43 in a schoolboy match in 1979 is the stuff of the legend.

Journalist and Melbourne club president, Tony Becca recalls that those 10 wickets included "five with leg breaks and five with pace."

Walsh's seniors at Melbourne and other knowledgeable cricket watchers were quick to recognise that the gangling youth's future lay with pace.

Convincing him of that was another matter. A laughing Becca recalls that when he and others approached the quiet but strong-willed teenager to suggest he stick to pace, the latter politely but firmly disagreed.



WALSH...reacts after taking another wicket

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"He (Walsh) insisted that he loved this thing (bowling leg breaks) and he would continue to do (both styles) until he worked out for himself what was best for him," Becca said.

The decision wasn't long in coming. He was soon part of the Jamaica youth team sharing the new ball with Patrick Patterson in the regional Under-19 championships and also served with distinction for the West Indies Under-19s.

By 1982, he was spearheading the Jamaican senior attack in the regional Shell Shield in the absence of an injured Michael Holding, picking up 15 wickets and grabbing the attention of cricket watchers region-wide. Those with long memories will recall that his wicket-haul could have been far more impressive but for dropped catches.

Tours with the West Indies youth team to England and with the regional "B" team to Zimbabwe later in 1982 further testified to the youngsters emerging talent.

His 30 wickets in the 1984 Shell Shield season took him to the brink of Test selection, only to be edged out for the home series against Australia by the 20-year-old Barbadian Milton Small.

But he couldn't be denied a place in the West Indies senior squad for England later that year. He sat and watched from the sidelines and no doubt learnt a great deal as the great fastbowlers of the time demolished

England time and again in the first of the two famous blackwashes.

English County Gloucestershire contracted him at the end of that season, a relationship that was to last well into the 1990s and thenceforth Walsh's career despite the odd dip and turn was to maintain a steady upward climb.

The 1987 West Indies Cricket Annual notes that while he started the Australian tour of 1984-85 at number six in the order of fast bowlers, "consistent performances in the state matches leapfrogged him above Eldine Baptiste and Winston Davis, both of whom had played above him in the series in England".

Willing, strong and with extraordinary stamina, he quickly became known as the "into the wind bowler", the "work horse" who would keep plugging away at one end while his illustrious partners Michael Holding, Malcolm Marshall and Joel Garner stormed opposition batsmen with the wind behind them.

It was a role he would play uncomplainingly throughout the 1980s and into the 90s, constantly aware of the need to maintain standards and always prove himself.

Repeatedly down the years - despite his renowned consistency - he found himself having to give way in the West Indies team to others, notably fellow Jamaican Patrick Patterson and the Barbadian Ezra Mosely.

Always he bounced back to reclaim

his rightful place without rancor or malice.

The exit of the legends Holding, Garner and Marshall and the fading away of other sensations such as Patterson, Tony Gray and Ian Bishop meant that in time he became the accepted new ball partner for the incomparable Curtly Ambrose.

Once classified as an "old ball bowler" Walsh has emerged as one of the great new ball exponents. Always able to cut the ball from off to leg at high pace from his wide angled delivery stride, he has also perfected the leg cutter - darting in through the air and veering away off the pitch - constantly keeping wicketkeeper and slips on alert. His development of a lethal slower ball late in his cricketing life is testament to the extreme professionalism which has marked his entire career.

While West Indians hail the tumbling of records, Malcolm Marshall's 376, the 400 wicket mark, Kapil Dev's then all-time 434, which was broken last year and the more recent 500 mark, they will also remember heroic, super-human performances that took the West Indies to unlikely victories.

Cricket fans will never forget 1992 when Walsh and Ambrose took the last eight South African wickets for just 24

runs on the final day to win the inaugural Test between West Indies and South Africa. To date that come-from-behind win by 52 runs remains the only triumph by West Indies over South Africa in a Test match.

In late 1992, in Adelaide, Australia, when all seemed lost he grabbed the last Australian wicket as the West Indies pulled off a sensational one-run victory to level the Test series and eventually win it 2-1.

And as West Indies captain in India in 1994, Walsh without his partner Ambrose (injured), defied a cricked neck and a sore body to bowl his team to victory in partnership with Kenny Benjamin and a 1-1 series draw when again all seemed lost. His teammates still speak in awe of how they had to help Walsh into bed so sore were his limbs the night before that final day in Chandigarh.

Easily the world's most recognisable Number 11 batsman and at his best only a reasonable outfielder, Walsh excites humour and applause worldwide for the most flamboyant leave-alone in cricket.

Fabulous as his cricketing feats have been, Walsh's admirers claim that the "true gentleman" in him is a major reason for his popularity worldwide.

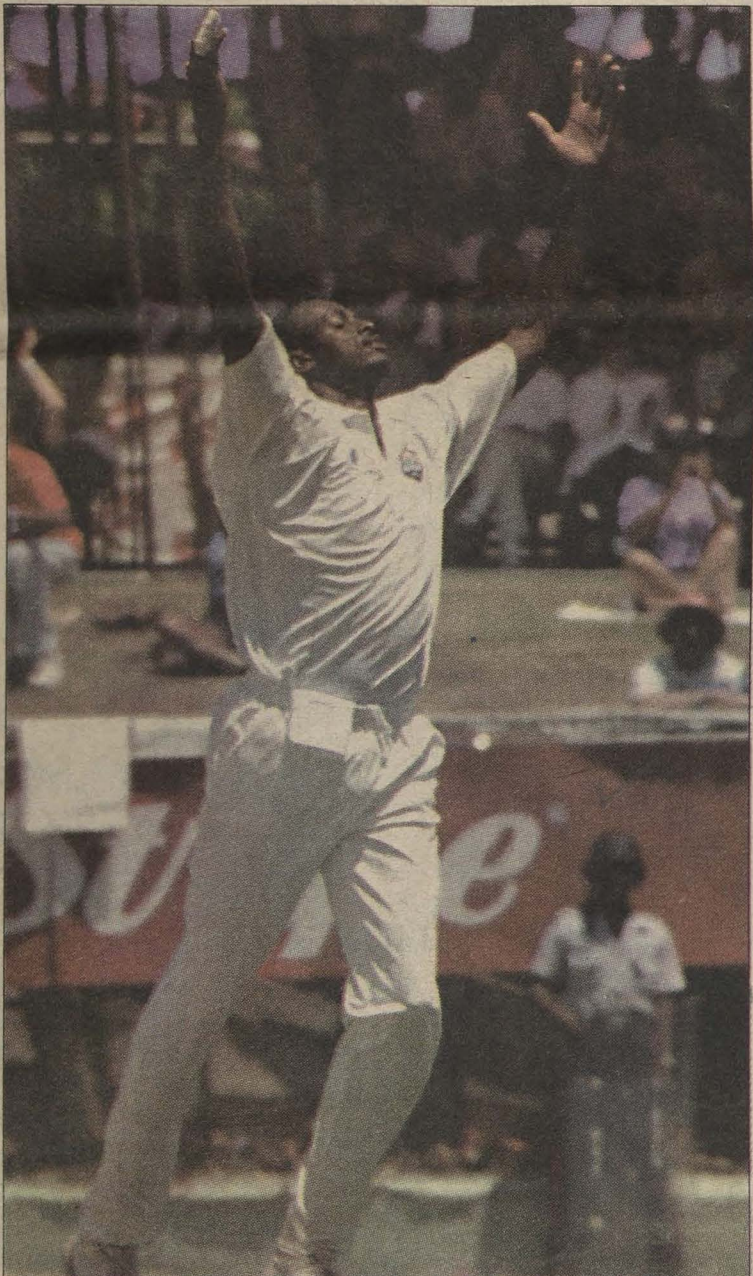
That side of his personality came

famously to the fore in the 1987 World Cup. Left with the final ball of a pulsating game with West Indies needing one wicket to win and Pakistan two runs, Walsh declined the opportunity to run out tailender Salim Jaffer, who had backed up well out of his crease as the big fastbowler approached his delivery stride. The sporting Walsh simply aborted his delivery and a reportedly "embarrassed" Jaffer regained his crease.

Pakistan ended up winning the game and there were many at the time who bashed Walsh for his action. But he gained recognition from the United Nations for sportsmanlike behaviour. And as time passed the dignity of that single act of sportsmanship helped to colour people's perception of the great Jamaican.

West Indians not least Trinidadians, marvelled at his reaction to being replaced by Brian Lara as West Indies captain. Where many others would have sulked and withdrawn, Walsh gave his all for his new captain.

Now as he approaches the end of his playing days we are left to marvel at the impact this man of humble background has had on the game of cricket.



AT LAST: Courtney Walsh throws his hands to the heavens, saying thanks to his creator after breaking the world record. (Photo: Michael Gordon)



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A TRIBUTE TO COURTNEY WALSH

Walsh was ahead of Holding

BY J K COLE

As the former chairman of selectors at Melbourne Cricket Club and current manager of the Surrey Senior Cup team, Ruddy Williams has seen them both.

And as a former captain of one of the most successful clubs in Jamaica's cricketing history, Williams had, at one time or the other, led both pacers on the field of play.

However, while most pundits

would never name an all-time West Indies team without the much-feared Michael Holding, Williams is prepared to insist that at age 16, world Test wicket record-holder, Courtney Walsh, was some what head of Holding in sheer pace.

"There was no doubt that by age 16 his pace and performance were pointing in the direction of an international career.

"At age 16, too, I believe that he was ahead of Michael Holding at a comparable age, with respect to sheer pace.

"While competing in Minor Cup cricket, it was the policy of the club that at least one very senior player would play at the helm of the team, during each game, in a bid to guide the development of the youngsters on the field.

"That responsibility was alternated between George Sterling and myself, and I can tell you that we were literally avoiding the slips because of the torrid pace he used to generate.

"Can you imagine a batsman edging a catch at slips to you at the pace at which he was bowling?"

Williams reflected in an interview with the *Observer*.

It is widely observed that, for the most part, Walsh would undo the opposing batsmen in Test and first class matches mainly through awkward bounce and movement rather than sheer pace. Holding, on the other hand, as the fastest bowler in the world at one point, would terrorise batsmen with sheer pace and the variety of his deliveries.

But according to Williams, Walsh had the physical and technical attributes to produce the same, if not a greater outcome, but had, perhaps, sacrificed this for durability and longevity.

splitting image of him – only that he was somewhat slimmer.

"What impressed me, more than anything, was his work ethic. At age 12 or thereabouts he would take charge of the gear and would take such custody of them that you would believe that they belonged to him personally.

"He also had a passion to succeed, and would do anything to get an opportunity to play cricket, such was his love for the game.

"His attitude was of such that at age 19 he was voted the captain of the Senior Cup team when other older and more experienced players chose not to take up the challenge. He was selected by the club and did not decline nomination, ready to relish the challenge ahead," Williams reminisced.

While admiring the young Walsh's courage, Williams was not in agreement with the nomination, though at the time he had no one else to propose.

"I truly believe that it was a blessing in disguise when he was called to a contract in League Cricket in England that same day, and his career could well have been saved by this timely call," Williams stressed.

Williams also recalled that there were two very crucial crossroads which Walsh had to contemplate during the formative years of his cricket.

The first was when he made the Senior Cup team, and consulted with Williams, the then chairman of selectors for Melbourne, seeking his opinion on whether he should continue to bowl his leg-spinners or pace.

"It was a choice that he had to make. The practice for him then was that he would bowl pace and leg-spin in the same match.

"There was an occasion, in fact, when he was playing Grace Shield (formerly Sunlight Cup) for Excelsior High, when he took the first five wickets bowling pace, and the last five bowling his leg spin.

"When he came to me, I advised

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A TRIBUTE TO
COURTNEY WALSH

— Williams

him to continue doing both and the more dominant one in his armoury would sooner or later emerge. The pages of history now bear testimony to that choice," Williams said.

The second situation was when he just about left school, and wanted to make a decision on whether to continue playing cricket or embark upon a career in accounting.

"It was really a difficult choice to make, because even then there was no guarantee that he would ever play international cricket.

"I am sure that the eventual choice to make a career out of cricket must have jolted him when, in 1984 he had to play second-fiddle to Gladstone Small of Barbados, as the West Indies' choice of a fourth bowler to complete their four-prong pace attack.

"When you consider that Walsh was superior to Small in the

statistics for the regional competition that year, yet Small was chosen ahead of him because of pace - that consideration alone must have made him revisit his choice to play cricket," Williams mused.

In the end, Williams believes Walsh made the right choice, and expressed conviction that the world would have been bereft of the remarkable talent, character and endurance of one of the most affable characters to have ever played the game, had he decided to bowl spin, or pursue a career in accounting.

Besides, Williams believes that in the face of the fact that there is presently no one pressing Walsh for his place in the team, the durable pacer should think about making the Test tour to Zimbabwe, as he is still the best bowler in the West Indies.



HAIL THE KING: Walsh walks through a guard of honour formed by West Indian and South African cricketers after passing the 500 Test wicket mark at the Queen's Park Oval in Trinidad & Tobago.

(Photo: Gordon Brooks)

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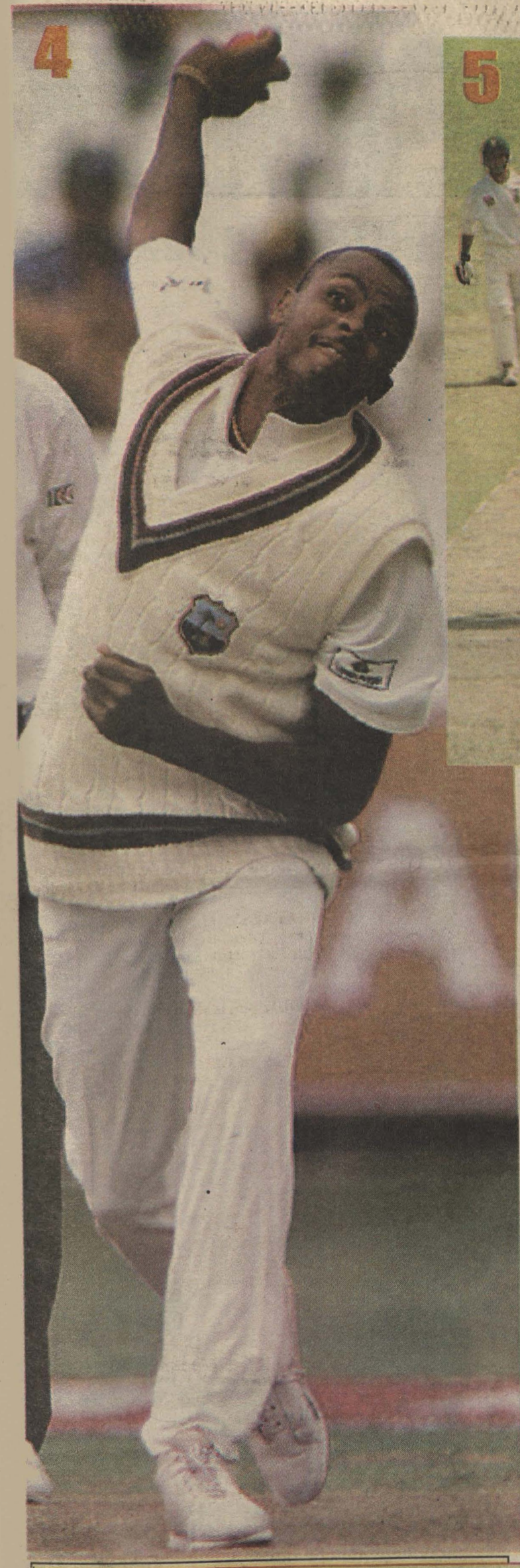
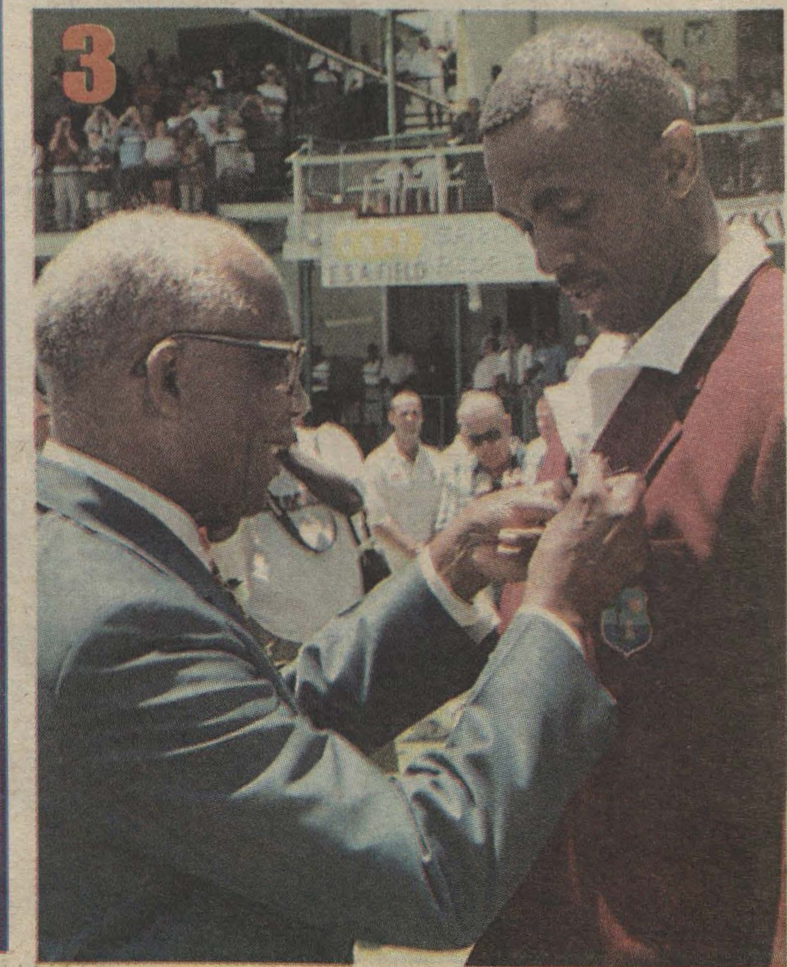
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1: WELCOME HOME: A pleased Courtney Walsh hugs Tourism and Sports minister, Portia Simpson-Miller and his mother, Joan Wollaston, on his return home after breaking the 500 Test wicket barrier. (Photo: Michael Gordon)

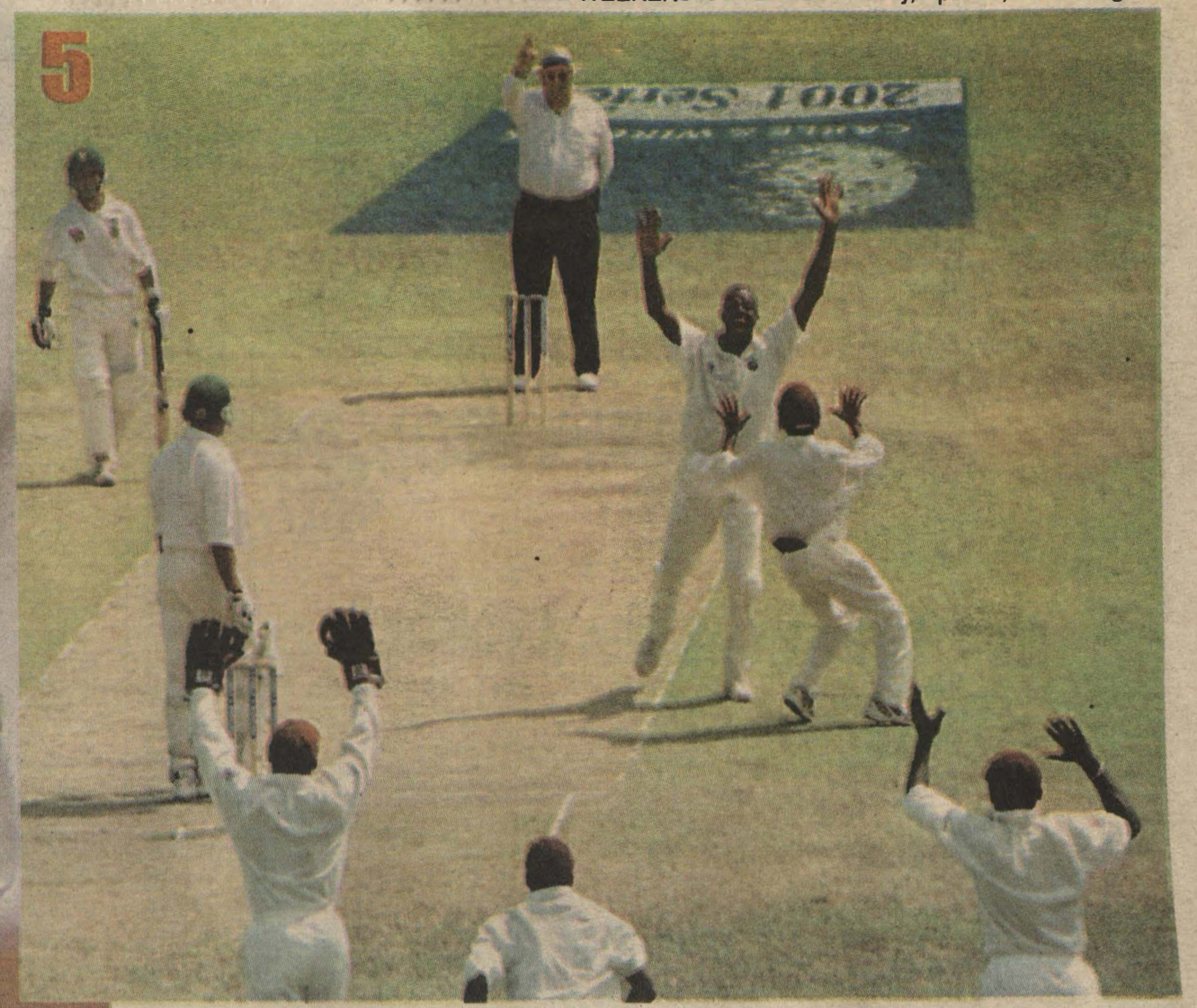
2: A TOUCH OF GREATNESS: The fastbowler is greeted by fans at the boundary's edge after dismissing Jacques Kallis to register his 500th Test victim. (Photo: Gordon Brooks)

3: BARBADIAN HONOUR: Barbadian Governor General, Sir Clifford Husbands presents the world's leading Test wicket taker with Barbados' national honour, the Gold Crown of Merit during the third Cable and Wireless Test in Bridgetown, Barbados last month. (Photo: Gordon Brooks)



4: WALSH IN ACTION: Caught in his delivery stride during the West Indies' tour of South Africa in 1998. West Indies lost the series 5-0. (Photo: AFP)

5: 500TH TEST WICKET: Walsh (third from right), celebrates with his teammates after trapping Jacques Kallis (second left), LWB, to record the 500th Test wicket. Australian umpire, Darrel Hair (centre), raises the dreaded finger. (Photo: Gordon Brooks)



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DOING IT AGAIN AND AGAIN
THAT'S WHY TODAY
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COULD NOT GO ON
BUT IN 1989 CURTLEY AMBROSE
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YOU ADDED TO THIS HISTORIC LIST
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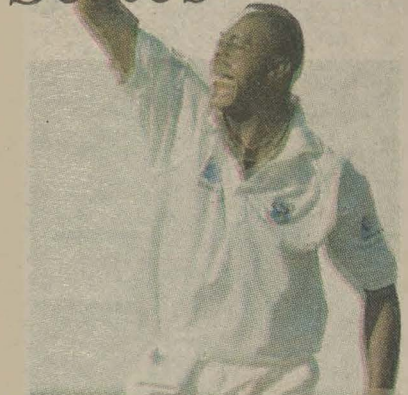


CONGRATS: Jamaica's High Commission To Trinidad and Tobago, Lorne McDonnough (left), congratulates Courtney Walsh on behalf of the Jamaica Government following the breaking of the 500 barrier. (Photo: Contributed)

Walsh's Test wickets Test Career Series by Series

| Season | Series | Mat | Overs | Mdns | Runs | Wkt | Avge: | 5wI | 10wM | Best |
|---------------|-----------|------------|---------------|-------------|--------------|------------|--------------|-----------|----------|------|
| 1984-1985 | WI in Aus | 5 | 146.2 | 29 | 432 | 13 | 33.23 | - | - | 3-55 |
| 1984-1985 | NZ in WI | 1 | 25 | 5 | 75 | 3 | 25.00 | - | - | 2-45 |
| 1985-1986 | Eng in WI | 1 | 33 | 6 | 103 | 5 | 20.60 | - | - | 4-74 |
| 1986-1987 | WI in Pak | 3 | 97.3 | 27 | 195 | 11 | 17.72 | - | - | 4-21 |
| 1986-1987 | WI in NZ | 3 | 120.2 | 28 | 306 | 13 | 23.53 | 1 | - | 5-54 |
| 1987-1988 | WI in Ind | 4 | 137.1 | 24 | 437 | 26 | 16.80 | 2 | - | 3-80 |
| 1987-1988 | Pak in WI | 3 | 86 | 14 | 230 | 4 | 57.50 | - | - | 4-46 |
| 1988 | WI in Eng | 5 | 157.2 | 40 | 412 | 12 | 34.33 | - | - | 4-62 |
| 1988-1989 | WI in Aus | 5 | 176.5 | 32 | 500 | 17 | 29.41 | - | - | 6-62 |
| 1988-1989 | Ind in WI | 4 | 123.2 | 35 | 268 | 18 | 14.88 | 1 | 1 | 5-68 |
| 1989-1990 | Eng in WI | 3 | 93.2 | 14 | 243 | 12 | 20.25 | 1 | - | 2-27 |
| 1990-1991 | WI in Pak | 3 | 74 | 7 | 222 | 8 | 27.75 | - | - | 4-14 |
| 1990-1991 | Aus in WI | 5 | 179.3 | 33 | 426 | 17 | 25.05 | - | - | 4-64 |
| 1991 | WI in Eng | 5 | 187 | 42 | 493 | 15 | 32.86 | - | - | 4-31 |
| 1991-1992 | RSA in WI | 1 | 49 | 17 | 102 | 4 | 25.50 | - | - | 4-91 |
| 1992-1993 | WI in Aus | 5 | 175.1 | 42 | 467 | 12 | 38.91 | - | - | 4-56 |
| 1992-1993 | Pak in WI | 3 | 80 | 19 | 207 | 12 | 17.25 | - | - | 1-40 |
| 1993-1994 | WI in SL | 1 | 30.1 | 10 | 60 | 1 | 60.00 | - | - | 5-94 |
| 1993-1994 | Eng in WI | 5 | 227.2 | 44 | 646 | 19 | 34.00 | 1 | - | 6-79 |
| 1994-1995 | WI in Ind | 3 | 140.5 | 31 | 361 | 17 | 21.23 | 1 | - | 7-37 |
| 1994-1995 | WI in NZ | 2 | 70 | 21 | 132 | 16 | 8.25 | 2 | 1 | 6-54 |
| 1994-1995 | Aus in WI | 4 | 148.3 | 33 | 431 | 20 | 21.55 | 1 | - | 5-45 |
| 1995 | WI in Eng | 6 | 290 | 57 | 786 | 26 | 30.23 | 1 | - | 4-72 |
| 1995-1996 | NZ in WI | 2 | 82 | 19 | 204 | 8 | 25.50 | - | - | 5-74 |
| 1996-1997 | WI in Aus | 5 | 192.3 | 33 | 592 | 19 | 31.15 | 2 | - | 1-7 |
| 1996-1997 | Ind in WI | 4 | 119.2 | 32 | 250 | 4 | 62.50 | - | - | 4-73 |
| 1996-1997 | SL in WI | 2 | 67 | 5 | 218 | 7 | 31.14 | - | - | 5-78 |
| 1997-1998 | WI in Pak | 3 | 101.1 | 17 | 306 | 14 | 31.85 | 2 | - | 4-80 |
| 1997-1998 | Eng in WI | 6 | 261.2 | 65 | 564 | 22 | 25.63 | - | - | 6-80 |
| 1998-1999 | WI in RSA | 4 | 158.5 | 36 | 416 | 22 | 18.90 | 1 | - | 5-39 |
| 1998-1999 | Aus in WI | 4 | 208.1 | 38 | 543 | 26 | 20.88 | 1 | - | 2-81 |
| 1999-2000 | WI in NZ | 2 | 78 | 10 | 226 | 3 | 75.33 | - | - | 3-21 |
| 1999-2000 | Zim in WI | 2 | 80.3 | 29 | 134 | 9 | 14.88 | - | - | 5-22 |
| 1999-2000 | Pak in WI | 3 | 123 | 26 | 292 | 14 | 20.85 | 2 | - | 6-74 |
| 2000 | WI in Eng | 5 | 220.2 | 92 | 436 | 34 | 12.82 | 2 | 1 | 2-39 |
| 2000-2001 | WI in Aus | 5 | 199.4 | 46 | 481 | 11 | 43.72 | - | - | 2-56 |
| 2000-2001 | RSA in WI | 2 | 38 | 10 | 75 | 6 | 37.50 | - | - | 7-37 |
| TOTALS | | 129 | 4814.3 | 1074 | 12358 | 500 | 24.71 | 21 | 3 | |

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Wicket-Breakdown

| | B | Ct | Ct(wk) | C&B | LBW | HWkt |
|---------------------|-----------|------------|------------|----------|-----------|----------|
| Australia | 23 | 64 | 31 | 2 | 15 | - |
| England | 24 | 61 | 30 | 1 | 29 | - |
| India | 11 | 34 | 14 | - | 6 | - |
| New Zealand | 8 | 20 | 9 | - | 6 | - |
| Pakistan | 12 | 26 | 10 | 1 | 14 | - |
| South Africa | 6 | 12 | 11 | 1 | 2 | - |
| Sri Lanka | 3 | 3 | 1 | - | - | 1 |
| Zimbabwe | 1 | 5 | 3 | - | - | - |
| TOTALS (500) | 88 | 225 | 109 | 5 | 72 | 1 |

5 wickets in an Innings

| | | | |
|-------|----------------|------------|-----------|
| 5-73 | v New Zealand | Auckland | 1986-1987 |
| 5-54 | v India | Delhi | 1987-1988 |
| 5-54 | v India | Bombay | 1987-1988 |
| 6-62 | v India | Kingston | 1988-1989 |
| 5-68 | v England | Kingston | 1989-1990 |
| 5-94 | v England | Bridgetown | 1993-1994 |
| 6-79 | v India | Bombay | 1994-1995 |
| 7-37 | v New Zealand | Wellington | 1994-1995 |
| 6-18 | v New Zealand | Wellington | 1994-1995 |
| 6-54 | v Australia | St John's | 1994-1995 |
| 5-45 | v England | Birmingham | 1995 |
| 5-98 | v Australia | Sydney | 1996-1997 |
| 5-74 | v Australia | Perth | 1996-1997 |
| 5-78 | v Pakistan | Peshawar | 1997-1998 |
| 5-143 | v Pakistan | Rawalpindi | 1997-1998 |
| 6-80 | v South Africa | Centurion | 1998-1999 |
| 5-39 | v Australia | Bridgetown | 1998-1999 |
| 5-22 | v Pakistan | Bridgetown | 1999-2000 |
| 5-83 | v Pakistan | St John's | 1999-2000 |
| 5-36 | v England | Birmingham | 2000 |
| 6-74 | v England | Lord's | 2000 |

10 wickets in a Match

| | | | |
|--------|---------------|------------|-----------|
| 10-101 | v India | Kingston | 1988-1989 |
| 13-55 | v New Zealand | Wellington | 1994-1995 |
| 10-117 | v England | at Lord's | 2000 |

Milestones

1st wicket GM Wood c RB Richardson 56 v Australia at Perth 1984-1985
 50th wicket Arshad Ayub lbw 17 v India at Delhi 1987-1988
 100th wicket DC Boon c PJJ Dujon 149 v Australia at Sydney 1988-1989
 150th wicket CJ McDermott bowled 2 v Australia at Bridgetown 1990-1991
 200th wicket Basit Ali lbw 37 v Pakistan at Bridgetown 1992-1993
 250th wicket BA Young bowled 0 v New Zealand at Wellington 1994-1995
 300th wicket M Watkinson c CO Browne 13 v England at The Oval 1995
 350th wicket Moin Khan lbw 5 v Pakistan at Karachi 1997-1998
 400th wicket IA Healy lbw 12 v Australia at Port-of-Spain 1998-1999
 450th wicket Abdur Razaq c RD Jacobs 2 v Pakistan at St John's 1999-2000
 500th wicket JH Kallis lbw 0 v South Africa at Trinidad 2000-01

Leading Batsmen Dismissals

| | | |
|-------------|-----------|----|
| MA Atherton | England | 17 |
| IA Healy | Australia | 15 |
| AJ Stewart | England | 12 |
| ME Waugh | Australia | 11 |
| GP Thorpe | England | 10 |

Test Hat Trick

v. Australia at Brisbane, 1988-1989
 AIC Dodemaide, MRH Veletta, GM Wood

Congratulations Courtney Walsh

...on your achievement of being the Leading Test Wicket Taker of all time. The entire LOJ Family is proud of you and salutes you. We knew you could do it. All the very best as you continue to set new commanding heights.

Milverton Reynolds, President and CEO of Life of Jamaica Ltd, presenting an award to Courtney Walsh at a function held to honour Courtney at the LOJ centre.

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- 3. Mardrea Hyman leading long distance runner and graduate of the Texas State University.
- 4. Kaydeanne Holness and Francine Powell are both National U-21 Netball Reps.
- 5. Lorraine Graham and Beverley Grant are both Olympians. Lorraine is national 400 metres champion.
- 6. Wade Allen National U-19 Cricket Rep; team member, West Indies U-19 Cricket squad.
- 7. Deon Hemmings Olympic Gold Medallist.

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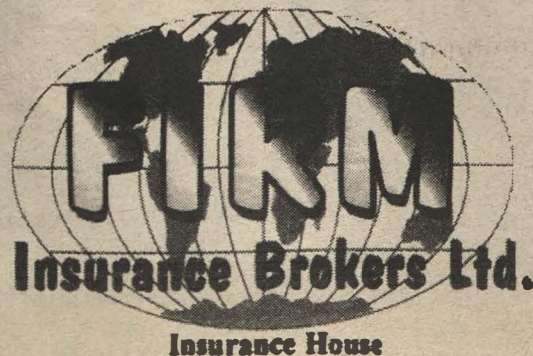
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Walsh a Caribbean inspiration

Almost two decades ago, down in Australia, a slimy-built fast bowler trying to establish himself in a team with a stellar cast took his first steps in Test cricket.

Just 22 years old in November 1984, Courtney Andrew Walsh was definitely the baby of Clive Lloyd's successful West Indies cricket team.

He was the newcomer in a pace quartet that boasted Joel Garner, the late Malcolm Marshall and Michael Holding (one of Walsh's Melbourne Club colleagues in his native Jamaica) and quickly became the workhorse of the bowling attack while his illustrious peers were used in short, effective spells.

As with all babies, the young Walsh was now exploring his new domain Test cricket. It had been his goal to reach this level and his first aim was to maintain a place in the team. As time progressed and the number of Tests in which he played increased, his modest ambition was to attain 200 Test wickets.

For all the magnificent and phenomenal achievements in the world of sports, this six-foot beanpole bowler, nor anyone else in cricket, could have imagined how big a name he would become in international cricket, nor how many times he would rewrite history and, en route, surpass his original objective many times over.

The leading West Indies Test wicket-taker; the leading Test wicket-taker and, as of 2:20 pm on Monday, March 19, the first and only bowler to have claimed 500 Test wickets Courtney Walsh is all of these.

An ambassador-at-large for his country, he is one of the region's most distinguished sons and has certainly brought honour and glory to the entire Caribbean with his bowling prowess. Success on pitches across the world, coupled with his humble and personable attitude, have gained this legend countless fans throughout the cricketing arena.

Walsh has long since passed the adolescent and adulthood stages of his career and is now revered as the elder statesman in West Indies cricket.

He is among the most highly respected players still in the game and is admired by teammates and opponents alike. His conduct, both on and off the field, as well as his sporting values and commitment to excellence in his profession are a shining example for youngsters in our Caribbean society.

We in the West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) laud yet another, and arguably the greatest, of Walsh's achievements 500 Test wickets. He is the pride and joy of the West Indies and we urge the people of this region to show him their appreciation for his outstanding service to West Indies cricket as he continues his final Test tour in the Caribbean.

In tribute to Walsh, it is fitting that this column concludes with a segment of the remarks by the WICB's chief executive officer, Gregory Shillingford, in praise of this bowler's 500th Test wicket:

Courtney, your achievement of 500 Test wickets at a strike rate of 57.79, with an average of 24.71 in 129 Tests, in 4806.3 overs, with 21 five-wicket hauls and three ten-wicket hauls, with a best performance of seven for 37, is truly an inspiration to all of us in West Indies cricket, both on and off the field.

Your unwavering spirit, your commitment to excellence and your durability have been admired by all of us who have enjoyed his many heroics for the West Indies over the past two decades.

We have come to associate your name with greatness as you have amassed milestone after milestone and today you have done it again 500 Test wickets. You have gone where no-one has gone before.

Courtney, you have made all West Indians extremely proud today and what better occasion than the 50th Test match at Queen's Park Oval for you to have taken your 500th Test wicket. This is truly a golden celebration.

We salute you.

Source - The Barbados Nation



HAPPY MATES: Teammates surround Walsh following on the 500th Test wicket.

(Photo: Gordon Brooks)

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THANK YOU: The great man acknowledges the crowd following the 500th Test wicket.
(Photo: Gordon Brooks)



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