

SIR EVERTON WEEKES , MBE , OBE.

A PERSONAL TRIBUTE TO A SPORTING ICON AND FRIEND.

My family lost a close friend on July 1st 2020 - it was not totally unexpected news from Barbados, but a deeply sad moment in our lives.

We have in the past been honoured to know this iconic gentleman & giant of the game and to have shared many memorable moments with him, notably at his home and on the cricket grounds of his native and beloved Barbados.

My dad, Mike, first watched him as a schoolboy during the 1950's Test series against England and also against Nottinghamshire at Trent Bridge starting on Saturday June 17 th (JB's Birthday) when Sir Everton scored a double century (279 out of 525 for 5 declared) and faced my dad's former Grammar School Captain Freddie Stinchcombe who was on his debut (9-0-0-61) and a member of the Notts staff as a leg spin bowler by the time of this incredible innings.

(Sir Everton scored four double centuries and a triple century during this Tour)

Sir Everton became a remarkable player - indeed a Legend - for the West Indies and Mike always took great interest in his exploits & record breaking from these moments on.

Mike's many cricketing holidays to the Caribbean as both a player & Captain from the 1970's , meant that eventually he would meet his hero being first introduced

to Sir Everton at the Empire Cricket Club in Barbados (with a conversation about the Notts match back in 1950) and enjoying the great man's company on many subsequent occasions with my mum, Mary. Matches at Empire and at Bank Hall , drinks parties at the Kensington Oval, long cricket discussions at Marshall's Bar at Holder's Hill and visits to Sir Everton's home followed, culminating in a select invitation to attend Sir Everton's 90th Birthday party with just 6 other dinner guests.

Mike was a regular correspondent with his friend and penned many letters to Sir Everton's home up to his own passing last year. When I first properly met Sir Everton in 2013 ,he told me how much he enjoyed these letters especially how my dad addressed the envelopes - "To SIR EVERTON WEEKES , BARBADOS" - they always found their way to his humble home , such was his reputation and iconic status within the Barbados community.

My own friendship with this great man started with meeting him briefly in 2004 at a "Cricket Legends" celebration event before the 3 rd Test between the WI & England and then at the 2007 World Cup Final in Barbados. When I had the pleasure of meeting him during a holiday in 2013 and talking about my mum & dad , Christine & myself were then thrilled to be invited to his home to spend the morning with him just chatting.

His modest villa near the beach where until recent times he would swim every morning, was decorated with some of his stunning memorabilia from a brilliant

career as part of the legendary "Three W's" , cricket administrator , coach , radio commentator and International Bridge player.

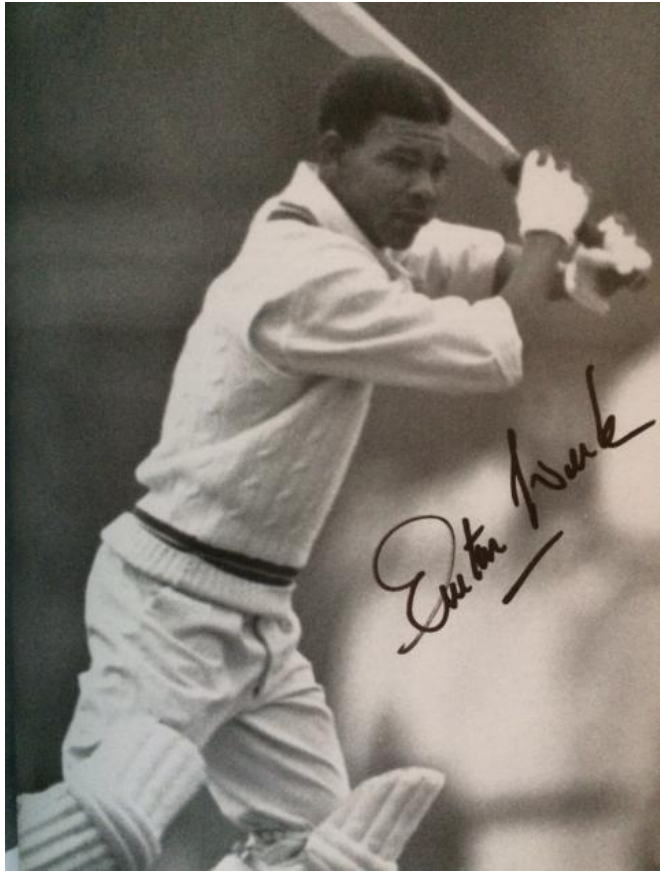
One photograph was of his infamous run out in the 4th Test against India in Madras in 1950 , when going for his sixth successive century in Test Cricket he was controversially "adjudged" run out for 90 by the Indian umpire. When I asked did he think modern Hawkeye technology would have confirmed this controversial decision, Sir Everton, clearly STILL aggrieved after over 60 years, calmly stated to us both that the Operators would all have been sacked if they had done so !

Sir Everton , Christine and myself together enjoyed several lunch times at our Hotel at Turtle Beach up to 2018 when we last saw him, the hotel staff always amazed to see him appear and asking to be introduced to this "superstar" of the game - he was their hero growing up watching or listening to his charming radio commentaries and he was treated with total respect and politeness by everyone he met. We were proud to say he was our friend.

Barbados is in mourning for the passing of the last of their "Three W's" .

Sir Everton DeCourcy Weekes was a hugely popular man, totally at ease with himself and with all those around him and as Michael Atherton commented in his moving tribute in the "Times" last week , Sir Everton "wore his greatness lightly."

Chris and Christine - July 2 nd 2020



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Match 68
FINAL
Saturday, 28 April 2007
Kensington Oval, Barbados
Start of play 9.30am

MATCH
68

REF 070107

ICC Cricket World Cup
WEST INDIES 2007
SUGGESTED GATE C
Greenidge & Haynes Stand

BLOCK 121 ROW 5 SEAT 45
Event Address: *Edwin Sutherland*
PRICE US\$ 300

International Cricket Council

REF 070107
GATES OPEN AT 7.30AM NO REFUNDS OR EXCHANGES!
SEE REVERSE FOR TERMS & CONDITIONS

GATE C
Greenidge & Haynes Stand
BLOCK ROW SEAT
121 5 45