

KING OF THE CARIBBEAN

Clive Lloyd – Holmfirth CC and West Indies

Profile by Aaron Gales



'Great' is often an overused word in sport these days but there are few that would deny Clive Lloyd of this accolade. He was truly one of the greatest players ever to play the game. He was a batsman who quite simply dominated bowling attacks and scored over 7,000 Test runs at an average of over 46. However, few people know that he once turned out for Holmfirth.

Not only was he a brilliant batsman; he was also one of the most successful captains the game has ever seen. During the period he captained the West Indian side, spanning from 1974 to 1985, the team rose to become the most dominant Test-playing nation, destroying all comers and at one stage going 27 matches undefeated which included an unprecedented run of 11 successive victories. He also holds the distinction of being the first West Indian player to ever make 100 appearances for the Test side.

His batting and captaincy genius wasn't merely confined to the Test arena. As a batsman he averaged nearly 40 and scored his runs quickly, often smashing to pieces the bowlers' confidence as he went about his business. He was also a fantastic captain of the side, being victorious in two World Cups - in 1975 (when Lloyd scored a majestic century in the final) and 1979, and also led them all the way to the final in 1983 when they were surprisingly beaten in the final by India. He was named a Wisden Cricketer of the Year in 1971.

Since retiring from the game, Lloyd has remained heavily involved in cricket and was an ICC match referee from 2001-2006 and is currently managing the West Indian cricket team.