

# PRINCE OF PADDOCK

## Profile of Gary Sobers by John Garnham

The great Sir Garfield Sobers is one of the great all-rounders of international cricket with a majestic highest score of 365 and also collecting 235 wickets. What many people will not know is that he played for Huddersfield League side Paddock as their professional in the early 1960s.

Sobers hit 62 for Paddock in a Huddersfield League fixture against Golcar. Later, he said that, "In a way, playing league cricket makes me try harder than in a Test."



The great man was named Wisden Cricketer of the Year in 1964 and was selected as one of the five cricketers of the century in 2000; he was knighted for his services to cricket in 1975. He also captained his country in 39 Tests, in which he won 9 and lost 10. He lost one match as captain after making a generous declaration against England. Many have described his captaincy as enterprising.

Sobers was well decorated by his country, gaining 93 caps and making 7,999 runs in total for the West Indies with his Test career spanning 20 years.

He liked many sports including basketball, golf and football (it was during a soccer match that he injured his knee, playing as a goalkeeper for Barbados).

He started and finished his Test career playing against England - 1954 at Kingston and 1974 at Port of Spain. He only played one one day international and that was against England at Headingley where he did not score with the bat and only took one wicket while conceding 31 runs off 63 balls.

Sobers liked playing in England where he played for Nottinghamshire after signing from Barbados; he ended his first-class career for South Australia. He scored 28,314 first-class career runs and took 1,043 wickets with his best haul 9-49.