

to be chosen to play for the All-Malaya XI. The article continued that he was also associated with A.S.A. Jansen, another early CSC stalwart in the 1938 Clarke Cup match which the Europeans won "by the skin of their teeth."

The Century Maker

Sabapathy scored a string of centuries in his prime. Those mentioned in this write-up are the ones which Sabapathy chalked up when he played for the CSC. For instance, in 1940 he scored 106 runs against a British Army team, the Inniskillings. He followed that up with an unbeaten 104 runs off United (British Army, Navy Air Force) Services), which included 13 fours and a six, in a CSC total of 284 for 6 wickets. At Hong Lim Green, Saba scored a breezy 105 not out off the SCRC. As if that was not enough, he went on to take 2 wickets for 7 runs.

His supreme moment came when he was chosen to play for All-Malaya against Dr. C. R. Gunasekera's XI, a strong touring team from Ceylon, in the late 1930's.

In yet another match played on May 6, 1940, CSC's Sabapathy scored 86 against R.A.F Seletar. Yet another headline in the Straits Times dated May 20, 1940 said, "Sabapathy Gets Four Wickets For Four Runs" against R.A.F. Changi. Some other match results were :

CSC vs Army, on July 6, 1941, in which he took six for 52, and in a match between CSC and IA, he scored 101.. The scores were CSC 259 for 7; IA. 76. The date is unknown.

But the passing years seemed to slow him down. In the early 1950's, a still sprightly Sabapathy elected play in the Singapore Cricket Association Junior League. In a match against R.A. F. Changi, he had the rare distinction of taking 5 wickets in 5 balls on Balestier Plain. With two wickets down in his previous over, his total tally was 7 wickets for 25. 24 runs. CSC won comfortably.

The Twilight Years

In 1952, playing in the Junior League, Saba took 13 wickets for 12 runs in a two-inning game,

helping CSC II to win the Junior Championship when his team beat the Sinhalese Association on St. Andrews School field at Woodville. It must be pointed out that after he stepped down from SCA Senior League cricket, he also played for other teams in the Junior League, and compiled many more centuries and other top scores, besides chalking up excellent bowling analyses.

He also featured in another sparkling innings of 76 against SCRC at Hong Lim Green, which included six sixes and seven fours.

Some other notable performances must be mentioned. For instance, in a CSC - SCC match, he took a hat-trick, and in another, he amassed 104 runs against a British Dockyard team at Sembawang

In The Highest Athletic Traditions

Sabapathy clearly loved the game and played it in the highest traditions of sportsmanship participating in almost every level from the S.C.A's Senior League, and later, the Junior League, to the Colony and All-Malaya, and in the Annual Classic, Europeans vs the Rest. He played on every cricket ground in Singapore and deserved his share of the limelight. Press cuttings of these results are the prized possessions of his family. Believe it or not, he was also a boxer in the welterweight class, a champion runner and a hockey player. In short, he was the all-round athlete.

The Curtain Falls

On June 11, 1989, Father Time, that great author wrote the inevitable ending. The indomitable Ceylon Sports Club cricketer V.R.Sabapathy passed away peacefully, aged 77. He played a great game and lived life to the fullest. He left behind five sons, of whom Jeyapathy and Shreepathy are active CSC members.

According to his son, Shreepathy, who is currently the Social & Cultural Chairman for the 2000 - 2001 term, he enjoyed every minute of it. Both sons and their father were, at one time or another, members of the Management Committee.