

USACA urged to get their act together in interest of cricket



One of the greatest batsmen ever to play for the West Indies, Desmond Haynes of Barbados, shortly after his induction into the Cricket Hall of Fame at its annual ceremony held in Hartford, Connecticut, Saturday, September 20, made a "serious plea" to the United States of America Cricket Association (USACA) to get their act together in the interest of cricket.

Haynes, who formed a formidable opening partnership with fellow Barbadian Gordon Greenidge in Test cricket, which became integral to the success of the West Indies team in the 1980s, said: that you (USACA) have got to come together with the West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) to get cricket in the U.S. on the right track.

"We in the Caribbean must have close association with U.S. cricket. You cannot ignore the fact that cricket is now big business. You have got to come together with the West Indies Board to get cricket on the right track. Through its membership with the International Cricket Conference (ICC), the WICB is responsible for all the cricket playing countries in the Americas. You must get your act together in the best interest of the sport," he challenged.

Attributing his success and the fact that he was being honored at the function to his upbringing, in particular his grandmother, Haynes said that as a young man growing up in Barbados, he had always wanted to play for the West Indies. "When I finally made the team, I was privileged to meet Mr. Greenidge. We gelled very well right away. Although we had different personalities, I wanted to make the partnership a very long one and decided that the only way to do so means that I would have to compensate Mr. Greenidge. If we are doing well and making life easier for the other batsmen then it means that we are doing a good job," he concluded. "The records and the success we achieved over the years have attested that that decision was a very good one," he said.

He, however, lamented that he still found it very strange to see a Cricket Hall of Fame in America. "I played the game at the top level for 16 years and I am yet to see one (Cricket Hall of Fame) in Barbados or for that matter the Caribbean."

In closing, he wished all members of the Cricket Hall of Fame the best for the future and God's blessings.