

Despers earn most points in prelims

WITCO DESPERADOES, who placed first in Sunday's Panorama North zonal preliminaries attended by a huge crowd, were awarded more points than any other band that took part in the preliminary steelband competitions, in the North, South and East. Desperadoes gained 474 points for their rendition of Blue Boy's Rebecca."

Runners-up at Sunday's preliminaries were ISCOTT Casablanca and Catelli Trinidad All Stars, both with 464 points. Next were Phase Two Pan Groove, 457 points, Carib Tokyo, 454, Fertrin Pandemonium, 447, and TTEC Power Stars and TRINTOC Invaders, both with 445 points.

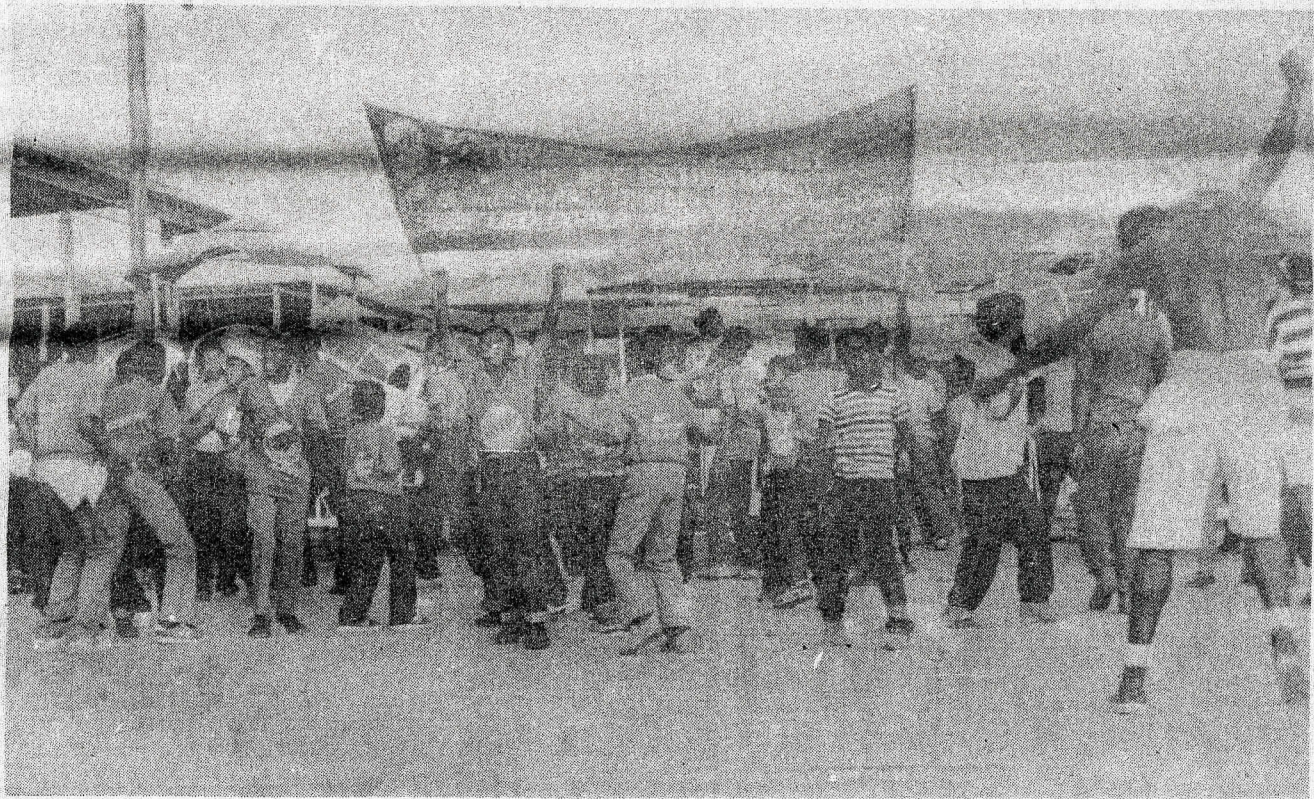
Power Stars and Invaders scored the same number of points as International Trust Nu-Tones, who won the Eastzonal preliminaries on Friday. Dunlop Tornadoes, who won the South zonal preliminaries on Saturday, got 456 points. Sunday's North preliminaries were attended by what some estimate to be a record crowd, of at least 30,000.

So much so that the police controlling the crowd had to send for reinforcement at 8 p.m. Both the North Stand and the Grand Stand were packed to capacity virtually from midday to midnight.

Pan Trinbago officials remained unrepentant yesterday about the three and a half hour delay in the start of the programme, in spite of the fact that they assured the media at a press conference last week that delays in the start of Panorama were a thing of the past. A Pan Trinbago official told the EXPRESS that the delay on Sunday was unavoidable.

Audience and participants were entertained by taped calypso music, by round-the-neck panmen, and by Amoco Renegades, who waited in position number one for some five hours before they went on stage.

Next event at the Queen's Park Savannah in the run-up to Carnival is the Panorama North and East zonal finals, on Friday February 4.



THE boys from John John, Carib Tokyo, still a force to be reckoned with, hit the stage with their hundreds of supporters and the usual sweet pan, ending up fourth in Sunday's judging.