

A first for Boogsie...and for Phase II Panorama history created Saturday

By PETER BLOOD

PANORAMA history was made last Saturday night when the National Panorama Final was staged at the Queen's Park Savannah. Celebrated steelband arranger, composer and pianist Len "Boogsie" Sharpe has established a record in steelband history that will take a lot of doing to better.

Through Phase II Pan Groove's winning the title, Sharpe has become the first arranger to win five titles in Panorama in one year. His arrangement of *This Feelin' Nice*, his own composition, saw TCL Skiffle Bunch victors in the Pan-round-Neck category of the competition. This piece was also Pan Groove's selection.

Earlier in the competition, Sharpe's arrangements also earned victories for Siparia Deltones (South Zone), Our Boys (Tobago Zone) and Phase II (joint North Zone champion).

The Phase II victory was also an historic one of sorts for the band as it is only the second Woodbrook-based steel orchestra to win the coveted national title (Starlift, with three wins to its



Members of the steelband Phase II Pan Groove—Panorama champions 1987—which has achieved the distinction of being the first unsponsored steelband ever to win a Panorama in Trinidad and Tobago.

credit, is the other); and it was the first time an unsponsored steelband has won the Panorama final. It was also the first time in nine years that a Woodbrook steelband was victorious in Panorama.

In the Pan-round-Neck contest, defending champion Scrunters Pan Groove was up against seven of the most formidable opponents in this area of pan. All of the bands gave commendable performances. However,



TCL Skiffle Bunch of San Fernando, also the Steelband Festival champion, pulled out all stops to run ahead of its nearest rival—Hoytonians, also from the south—by

seven points. Third position was awarded to World Wide.

Competition in the Conventional category got under way at 10.45 p.m., by which time the crowd in both the Grand and North Stands had swelled to almost uncontrollable proportion.

Aside from Phase II having a somewhat tentative opening, the band took some time to settle. While I think the acknowledgement and recognition of Sharpe's

genius is long overdue, I found the band's previous performances, especially on semi-final night to be more convincing.

I also found the same to be true of second-placed Amoco Renegades. Jit Samaroo's arrangement of Kitchener's *Pan in 'A' Minor* was played with more conviction when the band performed on the two occasions prior to the final.

The judges awarded WITCO Desperados third place, a placing I considered well deserved. The duo of Clive Bradley and Beverly Griffith was responsible for Desperados' arrangement of *Pan in 'A' Minor*.

The fourth position was shared between Catelli Trinidad All Stars and Fertrin Pandemonium and it's with this decision that my concern lies.

All Stars were visually and musically stunning and stimulating, and being no All Stars fan, bias has not influenced this opinion. Arranger Leon "Smooth" Edwards took a calypso considered by many Panorama pundits as "being a lost case where this competition is concerned and transformed it into a mind-boggling piece of music. His revolutionary marriage of pan with tassa further underscored the theory that pan is the greatest musical discovery of the 21st century.

Pandemonium is the other band I didn't think received a fair shake. Until hearing All Stars, this Belmont band was my winner. Playing Clive Bradley's arrangement of Scrunter's *She Want Me To Sing In She Party*, Pandemonium gave the best performance I've ever heard from the band on a final night.

NACC sees beyond carnival

THE National Action Cultural Committee, and its women and youth committees, will sponsor three post-carnival productions this week.

On Thursday, the National Women's Action Committee (NWAC) will present its "Queens in Concert" at the NUGFW Hall, Frederick Street, Port of Spain, at 8 p.m. The concert will feature National Calypso Queen Sandra, Denyse Plummer, Lady B, Lady

Iere, Twiggy and many others.

On Friday, the National Action Cultural Committee presents "Young Kings in Concert" at the NUGFW Hall. Taking part will be Young King Bally, Cro Cro, DeLamo, De Fosto, Iwer George, Sandra and others.

To bring the curtain down on this year's carnival celebrations, the National Action Cultural Committee will present "Kings Go Forth" on Sunday, March 8, at 5

p.m. at the Arima Velodrome.

The show will feature Duke, Chalkdust, Stalin, Gypsy, Crazy and Poser.

Taking part also will be National Panorama champions Phase II Pan Groove and East Panorama champions American Stores Exodus.

Tickets go on sale at 40 Duke Street, Port of Spain, and Jimmy's at High Street in San Fernando.

Woodbrook champs score 487

PHASE II Pan Groove is the new national Panorama champion of Trinidad and Tobago. The Woodbrook-based steel orchestra, playing Len "Boogsie" Sharpe's arrangement of *This Feelin' Nice*, amassed a score of 487 points.

Held at the Queen's Park Savannah before a capacity crowd, last Saturday's competition belonged to Sharpe, for he was also the arranger for Pan-round-Neck champion TCL Skiffle Bunch of San Fernando, which played the same selection as Phase II.

The judges' panel included Merle Albino-De-Couteau, Marjorie Wooding, Junior Howell, Lindy Ann Bodden-Rich, Joycelyn Pierre and Earl Caruth.

Following are the results in both categories:

PAN-ROUND-NECK

1. TCL Skiffle Bunch — 466
2. Hoytonians — 459

3. World Wide — 451
4. Scrunters Pan Groove — 438
5. Chord Masters — 427
6. Trinidad Nostalgic — 423
7. Tripolians — 420
8. Scorpions Pan Reflections — 419.

CONVENTIONAL

1. Phase II Pan Groove — 487
2. Amoco Renegades — 485
3. WITCO Desperadoes — 476
4. Catelli Trinidad All Stars — 473
Fertrin Pandemonium — 473
6. Solo Harmonites — 465
Fernandes Vat 19 Fonclaire — 465
8. American Stores Exodus — 458
9. Trintoc Invaders — 451
Trintoc Sun Valley — 451
11. Old Oak Siparia Deltones — 449
12. Merrytones — 446.