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BOOGSIE BURNS 'EM

Despers in comeback from last to third

By NEIL PARSANLAL

PHASE 11 Pan Groove, playing a much-improved version of "Fire Down Below" by Len "Boogsie" Sharpe, ran away with top honours at Friday's North Zone Panorama Finals, leaving pre-Panorama favourites Amoco Renegades trailing in the early morning dust, a distant 13 points behind.

The "Phase," who placed third behind Renegades and Trintoc Invaders at last week's National Preliminaries, scored 269 points to emerge first, while Renegades barely held on to sixth place with 253 points.

More Spectacular

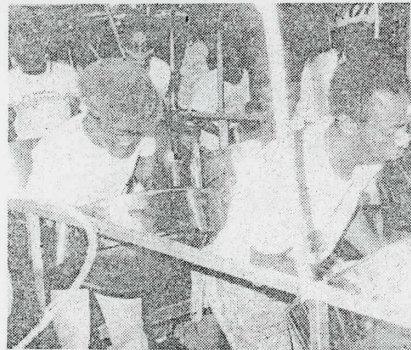
Saturday's triumph places Phase 11 alongside Fonclaire as the only band to win four zonal championships. Their victory, however, was made all the more spectacular when one considers that it makes it four times in a row that Phase 11 has won the North Zone finals.

They won in 1986, 1987, 1988 and now in 1989. Neal and Massy All Stars, who many said was "coming with a vengeance" to atone for their poor showing in the National Preliminaries, failed once again to impress the judges and could only manage seventh place among the nine steelbands competing Friday night.

Witco Desperadoes on the other hand, was able to improve on their last performance to fill third spot behind Phase 11 and Fertrin Pandemonium with 261 points.

Potential Symphony, who surprised many last year by tying with Curepe Scherzando for the East Zone title, pulled out all stops to reclaim their coveted title from such bands as Sangre Grande Cordettes who placed first among the East bands in the National Preliminaries, Solo Harmonites and American Stores Exodus.

They were the only band to play calypsonian Crazy's monster hit for 1989 "Nani Wine," and what a perfor-



PAN FEVER: MEMBERS of Witco Desperadoes in action at the Savannah on Friday night. Photo by LESTER FORDE.

mance it was. They were the first band to cause an otherwise sedate North Stand to rise to its feet.

After them it was a straight fight between Sangre Grande Cordettes who played last among the East bands and Solo Harmonites who played first.

This year's Panorama was faced with the usual plethora of problems such as late starts, seemingly interminable delays between bands and hordes of patrons crowding onto the stage.

Scheduled to begin at 7.00 p.m., the North/East Zonal finals did not get underway until approximately 8.30 p.m., while Carib Tokyo, the last band to cross the stage did so at 3.35 a.m. on Saturday.

All eyes will now be focussed on today's South/Central Zonal finals in which Fonclaire and Siparia Deltones, joint champions in 1988, will be defending their titles.

NORTH ZONE RESULTS: Phase 11 Pan Groove — 269; Fertrin Pandemonium — 266 1/2; Witco Desperadoes — 261; Carib Tokyo — 257; Trintoc Invaders — 256; Amoco Renegades — 253; Neal and Massy All Stars — 249; Tesoro Starlift — 245; and Merrytones — 242.

EAST ZONE RESULTS: Potential Symphony — 259; Sangre Grande Cordettes — 254; Solo Harmonites — 253; Gerizim Angel Harps — 250; Pamperi — 249; American Stores Exodus — 247; Nu Tones — 242; and Simple Song — 238.



THE CHAMP: Dressed like a boxer and singing "The Champ" and "Together We Stay," Denyse Plummer on Wednesday night retained her National Calypso Queen title from a field of 20 women.

Denyse made her way onto the stage in full boxing gear accompanied by her four "handlers" and then proceeded to give the Jean Pierre Complex audience a sparkling exhibition to get the approval of the judges which was made up of some 75 persons from among the crowd.

Lady B (Beulah Bobb) placed second while Drunette Ramonraj was third. Photo by

5th place
Zonals