

MERRY HARPS

WIN TOBAGO

PRELIMINARIES

MELLOW HARPS steelband on Tuesday night won the Panorama Tobago preliminaries by a clear 12 points from a field of 9 Tobagonian steelbands.

Mellow Harps were awarded 409 points for their rendition of Chalkdust's "Ash Wednesday Jail," which had the large crowd at Shaw Park jumping.

Second was TTEC East Side, playing Blue Boy's "Rebecca," with 387 points. West Side was third with 385 points, and they played Lord Kitchen's "50 Years of Steel."

Fourth were Our Boys, who also played "50 Years of Steel," with 382 points. They were followed by Mellow Tones, 370 points, Buccaneers, 359, Trintoc All Stars, 320, Central Symphony, 271, and Tobago East Side, 259.

The first eight bands have qualified for the Panorama Tobago finals,

which will take place on Monday, February 7, at Shaw Park, beginning at 8 p.m. It does not seem, however, that any Tobago bands will qualify for the Panorama national final.

Qualification for the national final is based on points gained in the preliminaries, and more than 16 Trinidad bands (the number that will take part in the final) have scored more points than the winning Tobago band.

The Panorama Tobago preliminaries started 15 minutes late, according to a spokesman at the Tobago Carnival Development Committee (CDC), because some of the bands were late. The Tobago House of Assembly is in charge of the CDC in Tobago.

Next on the Tobago CDC's agenda is the calypso semi-finals, at Shaw Park on Friday, at 8 p.m. This will be followed by the village Queen competition, also at Shaw Park, on Saturday February 5.