

PLAY ONE FOR ME...

BY SUNITY MAHARAJ

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The cry yesterday came not from Calypso Monarch Black Stalin, but from the thousands of people who turned up in Port of Spain for Jour Ouvert and Monday's Carnival.

Disappointment hung thick as spectators waited for hours at the Grand Stand, Queen's Park Savannah, before the first band took the stage after lunch.

At the Independence Square downtown venue, the situation was similar with just two bands appearing on stage between depressing in San Fernando which saw the poorest turn-out of masqueraders and spectators ever.

But for Bill Trotman it could not have been a better day.

Trotman's late-running simple "Mammy, Mammy, I Want To Go Back To School," seems poised to run away with road march honours.

Running second is Poser's "I Tell She".

SAME TUNE

These two calypsoes were most played by the brass bands at both Port of Spain venues — the Savannah and Independence Square.

The steelbands all played the same tune — their own "No pan". Pan-round-neck pansides took the stage with their instruments overhead and conventional bands allowed only their rhythm sections to be heard.

Masqueraders of "Warriors of Leopard" joined the panmen with a cry to the judges: "No pan for the CDC" which they sang as they took the Savannah stage.

Most of the big bands as usual took the stage yesterday with decreased sections. Edmund Hart's "Faces And Places" had the biggest turnout.

The fight for Band of the Year honours seems to be between Irvin McWilliams', "Our Famous Recipes"; Peter Minshall's "Carnival of the Sea" which has already secured the Queen and King of Carnival titles; Stephen Lee Heung's "Hocus Pocus" and Wayne Berkeley's "Ritual".

The edge seems to be with McWilliams' "Our Famous Recipes," but, perhaps, it is too early to say.

THE Carnival "fever" is mirrored all over the face of this masquerader from Peter Minshall's presentation "Carnival of the Sea." However, to many a spectator Monday carnival suffering the pinch of the pan boycott, left many a reveller crying for the iron and steel.

A HUBERT ALEXANDER picture.

