



TOP BANDS: Players from Amoco Renegades combined excitement and energy with skill to capture yet another Panorama title at the Queen's Park Savannah yesterday. These two zealous players (right) gave a confident wave during their rendition of "Mystery Band" by Lord Kitchener on Saturday night.

At left: Though it did not get on stage until the early hours of Sunday morning, Phase II Pan Groove did not let sleepiness rob it of concentration. Minutes after the band played its last notes to signal the end of the competition, about 3 am, the judges placed it second after the new champion. **Photos by LESTER FORDE.**



Renegades again

Charlotte Street band cops 5th Panorama title

By JOHN BABB

AMOCO RENEGADES is the 1993 Panorama champion.

The Charlotte Street band, with a scintillating performance of Jit Samaroo's arrangement of Kitchener's "Mystery Band," scored 480 points to register its fifth Panorama win in ten years — an unmatched record.

But while Renegades was favoured to win, the highlight of the all-night event was the performance of Neal and Massy Trinidad All Stars, which threw the capacity Queen's Park Savannah audience into a Carnival mood with its rendition of David Rudder's "Dust in yuh Face," which earned the band 468 points to tie in third position with the dethroned champion, Exodus, which, incidentally, played the same tune.

All Stars' performance was seen as "the comeback of a lifetime" — from position 19th at the close of the preliminaries with 395 points, to third place in the semi-finals and finals.

Separating the third-place tie and winner's row, occupied by Renegades, was Phase II Pan Groove playing Len Boogsie Sharpe's "Birthday Party" at 3 am yesterday.

Undaunted that they were performing in last position — No. 12 — the Woodbrook band threw down the gauntlet to all comers, but the flood of music in Renegades' "Mystery Band" proved a bit too much. Phase II fell short by one and a half points.

Overall, the favourites played true to form, leaving no room for any "dark horse."

Defending champion Exodus performed like it was really defending with a very musical treat of "Dust in yuh Face," while Desperadoes slipped to fifth position, scoring 467 points with Robbie Greenidge's "Street Party."

The pan finals, as usual, drew a capacity audience. How many actually paid is a major guess, for hundreds of ticket-holding patrons were locked out.

The show got under way late — at 9 pm — for which the NCC apologised. This was due to the late finish of the Children's Parade of Bands and the clean-up that had to take place afterwards. As a result, the gates were not opened until about 8 pm.

Fernandes Vat 19 Fonclaire, first on stage, took off at a terrific pace with Ken Philmore's tune, "All Night," and immediately it was obvious it would not be among the top three bands. It fell to sixth position with 462 points.

Overall, three bands went into "overtime" — Despers, by almost two minutes; Pamperi, by a minute and a half; and Cordettes, by almost a minute — which meant they went beyond the judging time.

As far as arrangers are concerned, 1993 will go down as another Jit Samaroo year — from five bands in the preliminaries, all of which played their way into the national semi-finals, winding up with two in the national finals. Of the five, two are zone champions — Renegades in the North, and Our Boys in Tobago, in addition to which Renegades also won the national title.

Results in the finals were:

1: Amoco Renegades — playing Kitchener's "Mystery Band" — 480 points. 2: Phase II Pan Groove — Boogsie Sharpe's "Birthday Party" — 478.5 points. 3: Exodus — David Rudder's "Dust in yuh Face" — 468 points. 3: Neal and Massy Trinidad All Stars — David Rudder's "Dust in yuh Face" — 468 points. 5: Witco Desperadoes — Robert Greenidge's "Street Party" — 467.5 points. 6: Fernandes Vat 19 Fonclaire — Ken Philmore's "All Night" — 462 points. 7: Pepsi-Cola Humming Bird Pan Groove — Ray Holman's "Pan" — 459.5 points. 8: Solo Harmonites — Crazy's "Paul Your Mudder Come" — 458.5 points. 9: Royal Castle Potential Symphony — David Rudder's "Dust in yuh Face" — 456 points. 10: National Quarries Cordettes — Jit Samaroo's "Miss Supporter" — 454 points. 11: Tropical Angel Harps — Super Blue's "Jezebel" — 452 points. 12: Pamperi — Godwin Bowen's "Raising Dust" — 447 points.

Pan lovers locked out

ABOUT 200 patrons were left stranded outside the gates of the Grand Stand, Queen's Park Savannah, on Saturday night at the National Panorama finals.

The gates to the Grand Stand were locked before the first band, Vat 19 Fonclaire, appeared on stage. Patrons complained they had bought special reserved tickets for \$50 each and were being prevented from entering the Grand Stand.

Gate personnel told angry patrons that all the seats were taken and the Fire Service officers wanted no one standing in the aisles.

The patrons even asked for refunds, but were informed that no National Carnival Commission (NCC) officials were around to assist.

Meanwhile, the NCC advised holders of Season Guest tickets that, due to a printer's error, some season tickets were issued inclusive of the Dimanche Gras Show which was held last night at the National Stadium.

The NCC release stated that only Season Guest tickets were applicable for shows staged at the Queen's Park Savannah. Yesterday, angry ticket holders called the Guardian to complain about the situation.