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Boogsie makes a sweep

STAFF REPORTER

PHASE II Pan Groove created history early yesterday morning by becoming the first unsponsored steelband to win a National Panorama title.

It was also a marvellous year for the band's leader and arranger, Len "Boogsie" Sharpe, who virtually snatched most of the prizes at stake in the 1987 Panorama competitions.

Boogsie's arrangements won the North Zonal title (jointly with AMOCO Renegades), South and Tobago titles, as well as the Pan-round-the-neck category.

Only the East Zonal title eluded Boogsie, whose achievements this year will be unbeatable. It was sweet success for Phase II — surpassing their 1986 performance when the band lost by one point to the champions, Catelli Trinidad All

Arrangements take top places

Stars.

Many thought then that Boogsie could not have arranged another sweet tune like "Pan Rising." But he proved his critics wrong and returned this season with "This feeling Nice."

Phase II placed fourth in the preliminaries, shared the North title with Renegades, and then dropped to second in the semi-finals. Boogsie promised added flavour in the tune for the finals, and this he did when the band performed around 4 a.m. yesterday at the Queen's Park Savannah.

In 1986, Catelli All Stars played in the

12th position and won the title. This year, Phase II played in the same position and also walked away winners.

Despers Third

Phase II amassed 487 points — two more than Renegades who for the first time this season had been beaten. Renegades scored 485 points playing Kitchen-er's "Pan in A Minor."

WITCO Desperadoes, always a threat to the frontrunners, finished third with 476 points, playing the same tune as Renegades. Catelli All Stars, who looked beaten from the preliminaries, tied for fourth place with Fertrin Pandemonium.

Both bands finished with 473 points. All Stars added several changes with their selection "Curry Tabanca." Pandemonium, on the other hand, tried another singer (Scrunter) with "She want me to sing in she party."

There was another tie for sixth place between Solo Harmonites and Vat 19 Fonclaire. Both Harmonites and Fonclaire played "Pan in A Minor" scoring 465 points each.

The East Zonal champs, American Stores Exodus, performed Ray Holman's composition of "Pan Woman" and scored 458 points. Trintoc's two sponsored bands, Invaders and Sun Valley were engaged in a tie for the ninth place. Invaders opted for "The Unfinished Symphony" by De Fosto, while Sun Valley played "Pan in A Minor." They each scored 257 points.

Siparia Deltones, the South winners, played Gypsy's "Sing Ram Bam" scoring 449 points for the eleventh spot, while Merrytones of Diego Martin were last with 446 points.

In the pan-round-the-neck category, TCL Skiffle Bunch regained its title with a scintillating performance of "This Feeling Nice" — another "Boogsie" Sharpe arrangement. The San Fernando band scored 466 points, edging out its Southern rivals, Hoytonians, which played Natasha Wilson's "Mas is We."

Third was Worldwide, followed by the defending champions Scrunters, Chord Masters, Trinidad Nostalgic, Tripolians and Pan Reflections.

Results of the conventional category:
1. Phase II Pan Groove, 487; 2. Amoco Renegades, 485; 3. WITCO Desperadoes, 476; 4. Catelli Trinidad All Stars and Fertrin Pandemonium, 473; 6. Solo Harmonites and Vat 19 Fonclaire, 465; 8. American Stores Exodus, 458; 9. Trintoc Invaders and Trintoc Sun Valley, 457; 11. Siparia Deltones, 449; 12. Merrytones, 446.