

Keen contest expected at Panorama tonight

By FRANCIS JOSEPH

TONIGHT's National Panorama finals at the Queen's Park Savannah promise to be one of the most keenly contested in years.

It's not going to be easy for defending champions Catelli Trinidad All Stars. The champions placed 12th in the national preliminaries with Trini's "Curry Tabanca," and fourth in the North Zonal finals.

Last year All Stars were in a similar situation, and returned on the final night as true professionals to take away the title which was heading Phase II Pan Groove's way.

Four In A Tie

With All Stars' title looking in jeopardy, Phase II has risen again to the challenge. Dejected after his band was narrowly beaten by one point in the finals last year, arranger and leader Len "Boogsie" Sharpe returned with another masterpiece in "This feeling Nice."

Phase II placed fourth in the national preliminaries, shared the North title with Amoco Renegades, and finished second in Thursday night's national semi-finals.

On present form, Renegades loom as the big danger to All Stars' title. The Port-of-Spain-based band maintained the lead from the preliminaries, and the

members and supporters will be looking forward to staying at the top tonight.

Jit Samaroo has arranged the selection "Pan in A Minor" for the band. Vat 19 Fonclaire, beaten in the South Zonal finals by a wide margin, stormed through their rivals and snatched third place in Thursday night's semi-finals.

So good was Fonclaire's performance that only four points separated the South band from Renegades. Four bands tied for fourth place with 281 points — Fertrin Pandemonium, WITCO Desperadoes, Solo Harmonites, and South

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East Zonal champions, American Stores Exodus, played "Pan Woman," a Ray Holman arrangement, and finished eighth. On a night of ties, Merrytones and Trintoc Invaders were locked together for ninth place with 276 points.

The 11th band in the finals is Trintoc Sun Valley. The two Tobago bands, Our Boys and Trintoc Tobago All Stars failed to reach the finals.

Pamberi, of San Juan, which thrilled the thousands at the Queen's Park Savannah in the preliminaries to finish in the first three, has not made it to the Big Yard tonight.

Meanwhile, Scrunters Pan Groove will defend their pan-round-the-neck title against seven other finalists. The others are TCL Skiffle Bunch, Hoytonians, Worldwide, Chord Masters, Tripolians, Pan Reflection, and Trinidad Nostalgic.

The results of the national semi-finals on Thursday night were: 1. Amoco Renegades 289, 2. Phase II Pan Groove 288, 3. Vat 19 Fonclaire 285, 4. WITCO Desperadoes, Siparia Deltones, Fertrin Pandemonium, Solo Harmonites 281, 8. American Stores Exodus 279, 9. Merrytones and Trintoc Invaders 276, 11. Trintoc Sun Valley 275, 12. Gerizim Angel Harps 273, 13. Our Boys and Hatters 272, 15. Pamberi 271, 16. Trintoc Tobago All Stars 266, 17. Birdsong 258.