

EXPRESS

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A DESPERS VICTORY

PAN, sweet pan, rang out at the Queen's Park Savannah last night as the Panorama North Zone Finals swung into action following a ruling by High Court Judge Justice Kester McMillan that West Indian Tobacco Company Desperadoes be allowed to appear in ninth position.

The ruling came at 6.20 p.m. yesterday evening following a four-and-a-half-hour hearing at NIPDEC House, Port of Spain.

Despers captain Rudolph Charles, caught by the EXPRESS right after the court's decision could not then say whether his band would have performed last night and left immediately for the Laventille panyard where a meeting had been called to discuss the issue.

Desperadoes had claimed in a suit against the Joint Management Committee of the Carnival Development Committee and Pan Trinbago that there had been improper adjudication at the zonal preliminaries at the Queen's Park Savannah on Saturday.

The band had asked the court to rule that they be allowed to participate in last night's finals, or that the finals be stopped.

Desperadoes claimed they had been judged on one score sheet as having played "Boogie Down," a tune which the band did not play. According to Mr. Charles's affidavit, the band's tune of choice was "Party," which had been displayed in nine-inch letters on a large banner.

BY CARLTON KHAN

Mr. Charles pointed out that all the other score sheets had the band as playing "Party."

It was the second time the Desperadoes had gone to court because members felt they had been treated unfairly at Panorama preliminaries, the first time being in 1975 when the band successfully sued the CDC.

An application by Jet Age Valley Harps, also claiming improper adjudication, was thrown out yesterday, while two other suits by National Petroleum Jewel 22 and Carib Tokyo were both postponed to next Tuesday.

Valley Harps claimed in its application that it had been judged on the basis of scores from four judges instead of five.

Put into evidence during the hearing of the Desperadoes application was an application by Captain Arthur Watson, the judge on whose score sheet, it was alleged Despers was marked as having played "Boogie Down" instead of "Party."

Captain Watson stated in his affidavit that before Desperadoes came on stage a disc jockey started playing the tune "Boogie Woogie." The tune was taken up by the stand crowd. The words "Boogie Down" formed part of the chorus.

While Captain Watson admitted writing "Boogie Down" on his scoresheet, he claimed in his affidavit that he based his adjudication on the playing of the tune "Party" and not on any other.

To the best of his knowledge and information, there was no tune named "Boogie Down."

He admitted that Despers' tune of choice, "Party," was

clearly visible, as claimed in Mr. Charles's affidavit.

Tokyo, in its suit against the Joint Management Committee, claimed that pans amplified had had its Jewel 22 alleged NP allowed seven and three-quarter minutes instead of ten.

Karl Hudson-Phillips is representing Pan Trinbago, while James Davis is representing the CDC, Ivan Williams and others.

'We'll be right there in the semi-finals'

THERE'S no way Despers could have taken part in the Panorama North Zone Finals tonight, even though Justice McMillan ruled in our favour. West Indian Tobacco Company Desperadoes captain Rudolph Charles told the EXPRESS last night, just over an hour after the High Court judge upheld the band's application asking the North final asking "There just wasn't the time." We have 96 players and some 300 instruments. It takes us about nine hours to get everything down from our Laventille headquarters to the Savannah.

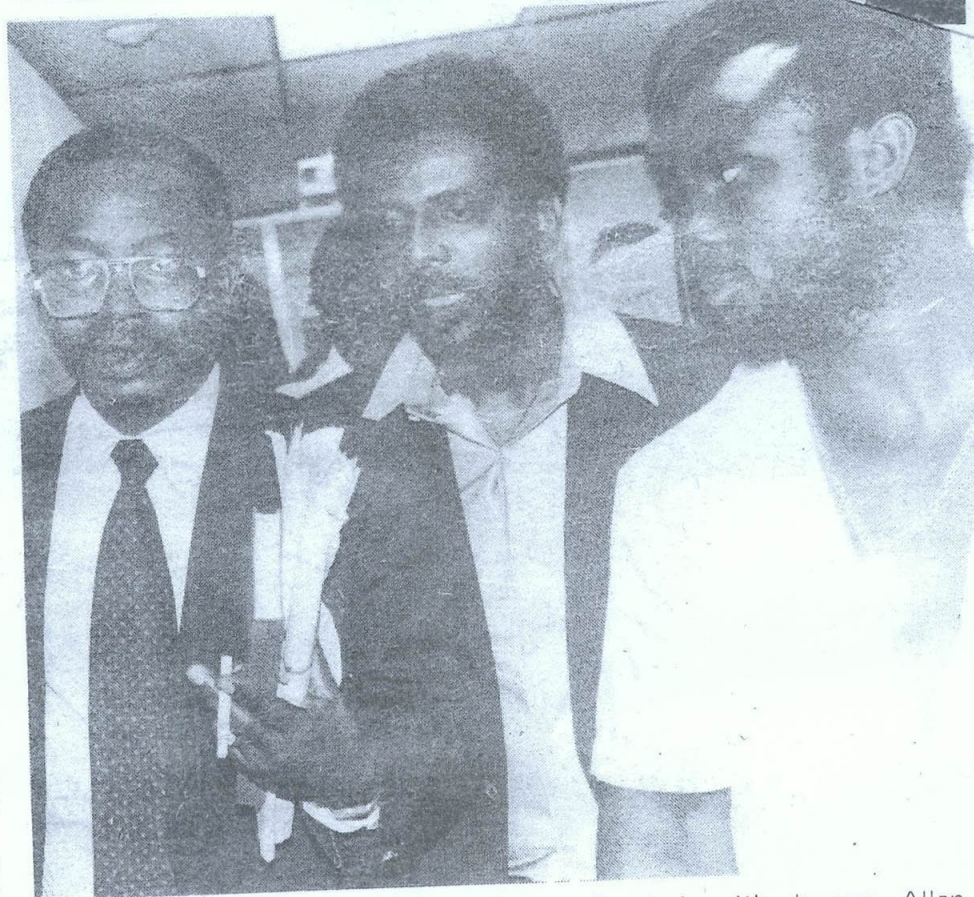
GOOD ACCOUNT

Asked whether the band had considered moving down to the savannah in anticipation of the judge's decision, Mr. Charles said, "No, we did not do that but we will be right there for the National Semi-Finals next Thursday."

The Despers captain wasn't worried about his band's form. His men, he said, had kept on practising throughout the crisis "and we will give a good account of ourselves next Thursday. It's all up to the judges then."

Commenting on the outcome of the band's lawsuit, Mr. Charles said he was very happy over the judge's decision.

"We have got justice," he said.



DESPERS captain Rudolph Charles (centre) with lawyer Allan Alexander (left) and band supporter wrestler Thunderbolt Williams. Picture by JIMMIE LEWIS.