

STARS TOPS

me out on top in the preliminary-round-the neck competition at the Queen's Park Savannah

which qualified for the finals 1, Gay Hoytonians and Music to a Pan Trinbago announcement. The winning band will get a 30.

Express 30 Jan. 1978 page 1

DESPERS

OUT FRONT

By NIZAM ALI

REIGNING Panorama champions **WITCO** Gay Desperadoes established a convincing lead over all comers this year by running away with 448 points in the national preliminaries at the Queen's Park Savannah.

... AND \$4,000 IN THE KITTY

Coming onstage under floodlights on Saturday night, Despers earned sustained applause with their rendition of Clive Bradley's arrangement to Kitchener's tune "Pan in the 21st Century."

But Pan Trinbago's interim public relations officer, Gerard Clarke, told the EXPRESS yesterday: "It has been brought to the attention of Pan Trinbago by the Chief Judge that the totals announced of some individual scores were incorrect."

Despers therefore came out winning \$4,000 as North Zone champs in addition to collecting a \$300 appearance fee. Despers who have emerged Panorama winners for the past two successive years, will defend their title at the Panorama finals on Saturday night.

Last night members of the joint management committee of Pan Trinbago and the Carnival Development Committee were meeting with the judges to make a final tally of the score sheets.

TIRED PANEL

The competition, which got underway at 10.30 a.m., on Saturday, ended 2.30 a.m., the following day with a tired panel of judges trying to work out results.

Hugh Borde, chairman of the five-man panel of judges, said the preliminary check revealed that some bands had tied because of the closeness of the competition.

The 16 bands which have qualified to take part in Thursday night's semi-finals are Catelli All Stars, Lever Brothers Gay Flamingoes, Nu Tones, Carib Tokyo, Ross and Sons Antillean All Stars, Phase Two Pan Groove, National Lottery Third World, Curepe Sforzata, Amoco Renegades, Solo Harmonites, Laughlin and de Gannes South Stars, Tesoro Starlift, T. TEC Power Stars, Merry Tones, Sylvania Potentials and Pandemonium.

Solo Harmonites was a hit with the crowd and may well pose a serious threat to Despers again this year. Curepe Sforzata did much better than the other Curepe boys, Scherzando

Other bands deserving high marks for their performance on Saturday night are National Lottery Third World playing Pelham Goddard's version of "Social Dora", TTEC Power Stars, Sylvania Potentials and Merrytones.

South bands Ross Antillean All Stars and Laughlin and de Gannes South Stars certainly deserve to come back to Port of Spain on Thursday night.

Hats off to South Stars leader Steve Achaiba who could come up with a band of such high standard in the four months since his members broke away from leading south band Maritime Life Hatters.

At the end of the show on Sunday morning, an announcement was made listing the individual points awarded to the 44 bands which took part.

More on Panorama in today's SUN.

See OPINION—Page 4



BUNCH in action at the Panorama prelims on Saturday. They're in the finals of the Pan -Round-The Neck competition.

Despers Out Front. Express 30 Jan. 1978: 1. Print.