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KITCH: THEY ROBBED RENEGADES



Nine-time champs sixth at pan semis

By TERRY JOSEPH

THE decision by judges at Sunday's national Panorama semi-final to place Amoco Renegades in sixth position is part of a plot to destroy the combination of Kitchener and Jit Samaroo, the Grandmaster said yesterday.

"They have destroyed this year's Panorama with that single stroke," an audibly upset Kitchener said. "It is terrible judging. They cannot have placed so low. This is just a plot to make it so that the public will believe that Renegades is no good as a band, Jit is no good as an arranger and my calypso—which they played—is not good enough.

"We all know that the judges' decision is final and therefore we cannot reverse it, but they have put in the minds of the public that Renegades cannot win and I feel that is only because the band has been winning too often. I have the strongest objection and I think pan lovers all across the country will take it hard. The whole thing



MEMBERS of Witco Desperadoes play their way into winner's row during Sunday's National Panorama semi-finals at Queen's Park Savannah.

Photo: ROBERTO CODALLO

is ridiculous and it makes me feel that I do not want to hear anything else about this year's Panorama contest," Kitchener said.

Six of the nine occasions on which Renegades has won the national competition have been with Kitchener's calypsoes. Again this year, they have selected one of his tunes—"Toco Band".

On Sunday, the band found itself coming up against formidable competition, most notably from Witco Desperadoes, Petrotrin Phase II Pan Groove and Exodus.

From their position at the end of the preliminary round, Renegades jumped 7.5 points with their performance on Sunday, but Desperadoes who, at the first stage, were ahead

of their nearest rival (Tropical Angel Harps) by 16.5 points, carried up their score to 467.

Despers are now 15 points clear of the new second-place band, Phase II Pan Groove.

The musical arrangers for Despers and Phase II, Clive Bradley and Len "Boogsie" Sharpe, respectively, now each have two bands in the final. Bradley is also arranging music for Nutones, while Sharpe is working with BWIA Invaders.

The top 11 bands emerging from Sunday's semi-final will meet reigning national champions, Nutones, on Saturday night, to determine who will take the 1999 title and the whopping \$100,000 prize.

None of the three bands from Tobago that appeared at Sunday's joust has made it to the final.

Panorama finalists: (and points earned at the semi-final round)

1. Witco Desperadoes—467
2. Petrotrin Phase II Pan Groove—452
3. Exodus—450.5
4. Tropical Angel Harps—450
5. N&M Trinidad All Stars—447
6. Amoco Renegades—443.5
7. BWIA Invaders—441
8. Solo Pan Knights—437.5
9. PCS Starlift—435.5
10. Fonclaire—435
11. Hydro Agri Skiffle Bunch—433