

24 to Ramajay

ONLY ONE steelband has been able to field two ensembles in this year's Pan Ramajay competition, the preliminary round of which takes place today.

Courts Laventille Sounds Specialists (class) is entering both their Power House group and an ensemble called the Classic Connection in the preliminaries, from which 14 bands will be chosen for the July 22 semi final round.

Representatives of the 24 bands met on Tuesday evening at Angostura House in Laventille to draw for playing positions. The representatives agreed that Birdsong would not draw but would be allowed to play in position 24, since the band advised that several of its members would be returning home on the very night of the preliminaries.

Pan Trinbago President Owen Serrette advised all representatives that (apart from Birdsong) none of their membership will be allowed into the performance arena at the National Flour Mills compound after 6 p.m., the scheduled starting time of the competition.

Exodus Steel Orchestra, which conceptualised the Pan Ramajay competition does not take part. Several other top steelbands are away or expected to be away on tour, including the Amoco Renegades and Witco Desperadoes.

Three time champions, Panazz Players, will not be defending their title this year.

This year's contest, the seventh edition of Pan Ramajay, offers a first prize of \$20,000, and will celebrate national heroes whom the committee feels have brought international attention to Trinidad and Tobago. Brian Lara, Ellie Manette, Giselle La Ronde West, Hasely Crawford and Janelle "Penny" Commissiong have been selected as honourees.

Admission is \$15.

—TJ

HOW THEY WILL PLAY

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Nocturne Fascinators | 14. Petrotrin Deltones |
| 2. Caribbean Magic | 15. Class Classic Convention |
| 3. Lincoln Enterprises Pan Ensemble | 16. Earl Brooks and Friends |
| 4. Kalomo Kings | 17. Pamberi |
| 5. Class Power House | 18. Sangre Grande Cordettes |
| 6. Phase II Pan Groove | 19. Starlift |
| 7. Flabej Ensemble | 20. Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force |
| 8. Moods | 21. Hillside Symphony |
| 9. San Juan All Stars | 22. Potential Symphony |
| 10. Panatics | 23. T&TEC Power Stars |
| 11. White Oak Harmonites | 24. Birdsong |
| 12. Tropical Angel Harps | |
| 13. Highlighters | |