

Express
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PAN RACE WIDE

OPEN

By KEITH SMITH

HOW THEY BEAT TONIGHT

ANYTHING can happen in the Savannah tonight. Never has the Panorama race been so wide open, and the band that wins will really be a champion.

THE order of appearances in tonight's national pan finals are:
PAN-ROUND-THE-NECK:
Superstars, Gay Hoytonians, Skiffle Bunch, Music Makers and Vat 19 Tripolians.
CONVENTIONAL BANDS:

Sylvania Potentials, Y de Lima Blue Diamonds, The Pandemonium, National Lottery Third World, WITCO Gay Desperadoes, CIBC Starlift, Phase Two Pan Groove, Ramoutarsingh's Olympians, T and TEC Power Stars and Lever Brothers Gay Flamingoes.

In past Panoramas it had been possible to predict the winner, given the running in the earlier rounds, but Panorama '77 has been marked by upsets.

although the South "champs", Stag Fonclaire has been eliminated there still remains Ramoutarsingh Olympians, which is playing better with every performance.

On Thursday night, the "dark horse". The Pandemonium, moved to the front of the field, beating West Indian Tobacco Gay Desperadoes by a clear 19 points, and, in Panorama, that's plenty.

But given the "upsets" that have occurred so far, TandTEC Power Stars, National Lottery Third World, CIBC Starlift, Y de Lima Blue Diamonds, and Sylvania Potentials must certainly feel they are in with a very good chance.

And to think that only two weeks ago, after the North preliminaries, "Despers" was being touted as an easy winner.

An interesting observation is that the "upset" bands, Phase Two Pan Groove and Pandemonium, both played their own compositions. And Ray Holman who introduced this trend while arranging for Starlift ("Boogsie" was a member of Starlift at that time) is around to see an idea that was, at first, villified take hold.

The odds shortened, however, with the North semi-finals when Phase Two Pan Groove, beating a composition by its leader-arranger, Lennox "Boogsie" Sharpe, came out winners, with Desperadoes in second spot.

FUN REALLY BEGAN

Neehall: Short Shirt ban a blow to 'Carib' unity

In the finals of that same competition, Phase Two repeated and people began hedging their bets on the Laventille boys.

The full results of the National semi-finals: The Pandemonium (543), WITCO Gay Desperadoes (524), T and TEC Power Stars (496), Ramoutarsingh Olympians (491), CIBC Starlift (484), National Lottery Third World (481), Lever Brothers Gay Flamingoes (482), Y de Lima Blue Diamonds (480), Sylvania Potentials (477) and Phase Two Pan Groove (476).

GENERAL Secretary of the Caribbean Conference of Churches, Rev. Dr. Roy Neehall has said that the banning of Lord Short Shirt from the Road March competition shows a government agency frustrating "what appears to be the overriding desire of the people."

that Trinidadians were acting selfishly despite their oil wealth and the decision will reinforce this feeling even though it was not the will of the average Trinidadian.

Came Thursday's national semi-finals, and the fun really began. Playing a scintillating interpretation of Ray Holman's "Pan Vibrations," Pandemonium led the field with "Despers", second and Phase Two Pan Groove in tenth position, just managing to make it into the finals.

And the five pan round-the neck bands in tonight's finals: Skiffle Bunch (163), Vat 19 Tripolians (137), Superstars (137), Music Makers (134), and Gay Hoytonians(133).

Rev. Neehall was expressing concern over the banning of the popular Antiguan calypsonian. He said there was a feeling in the smaller islands

Rev. Neehall also pointed out that the CCC was committed to encouraging unity in the Caribbean and to discourage what will increase the disunity "that external powers brought to our people."

So the position is that when the bell rings tonight, North will have three winners vying for overall supremacy—WITCO Gay Desperadoes, Phase Two Pan Groove, and The Pandemonium.

From the East will come Lever Brothers Gay Flamingoes, and

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