

Player walks off, delays pan prelims

...claims band refusing to pay

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PATRONS attending the preliminary round of the Panorama competition for conventional bands in the small and medium category waited for half an hour before the band Antilleans All Stars began its performance on Thursday night at Skinner Park, San Fernando.

The delay came about when the band's drummer packed up and walked off the stage as the performance was about to begin.

Sixteen bands took part in the competition organised by Pan Trinidad's South Central Region. Antillean All Stars was listed to play fourth in the small band category. The competition started just after 6 p.m.

In all, there were 12 small bands and four medium bands hoping to make it to the Panorama semi-finals on February 5 at the Queen's Park Savannah, Port of Spain. The final is carded for February 16 and 18.

Antillean All Stars players were already on stage when the band's drummer, Vincent Edwards, walked off with his drum in hand.

The band eventually performed their competition selection, "Carnival Manifestation", arranged by Atiba Sherwood and led by Jerod Brian Williams.

Edwards offered this explanation for his behaviour: "I am a freelance drummer. I was playing with Antilleans for the past three to four years. They owe me money, \$5,000 for playing with them last year. I told him (Sherwood) to pay me that money and I will play; he gave me \$1,000 earlier in the week and said he would give me before we play tonight (Thursday)."

"When I asked him as we were about to play, he said the same thing from last year. So I see it was going to be the same thing, and I pick up one of my nine pieces and walked off the stage."

Edwards said his action



HAIR-RAISING: A front-line member of Petrotin Hatters ramajays during the band's performance of "Madness", in the conventional steelband Panorama small/medium bands preliminaries on Thursday night at Skinner Park, San Fernando. —Photo: DAVE PERSAD

was not intended to sabotage the band but to send a message to the bandleaders.

The drummer for 30 years said: "I had to do what was right for me and to set an example to all the other band members who are afraid to speak out. If the band have to

rise up and to go further, let this be a wake-up call and, hopefully, they will do the right thing. I am all for progress. We made a verbal agreement, and all I asked is that he stand by his agreement."

Sherwood denied that Antillean All Stars owed Edwards

money.

Sherwood said: "I am disappointed in him. We agreed to pay him after he played. I will not hire him again."

The results of Thursday's competition will be announced on Monday.

Small, medium bands face off

THE national Panorama preliminaries for bands in the small and medium conventional category continue today in Tobago at the respective panyards from 1 p.m., and tomorrow for the North bands at the Paddock, Queen's Park Savannah, Port of Spain, from 3 p.m. Admission is \$60, with the exception of Tobago.

BANDS

1. **Belmont Fifth Dimension**—Vibes—Mark Loquan/Ken Philmore—Noel Micro Skair

2. **Humming Birds Pan Groove**—Live It Up—Michael Cupidore—Michael Cupidore

3. **Valley Harps**—Vibes—Mark Loquan/Ken Philmore—Michelle Huggins—Watts

4. **Power Stars Steel Orchestra**—Gie Dem Tempo—Alvin Daniel/Edwin Pouchet—Arddin Herbert

5. **Highlanders**—Can't Stop Moving—Terri Lyons

6. **Tokyo Steel Orchestra**—No Bull—Brian Bean Griffith—Brian Bean Griffith

7. **Courts Sound Specialists of Laventille**—The Player—Mark Loquan/Ken Philmore/Debra—Ken Philmore