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PANAZZ WINS 2ND RAMAJAY FINALS

By TERRY JOSEPH

RAIN DELAYED Saturday night's final of the 6th edition of Pan Ramajay at the National Flour Mills compound, Wrightson Road, Port of Spain.

This year's contest which was held in honour of Nicholas Inniss, the recently retired managing

director of Angostura Ltd, was plagued by inclement weather.

At the preliminary round, both nights were severely disrupted by rain. Again on Saturday, such was the interruption that organisers decided to postpone the event and did make such an announcement, causing hundreds to leave the arena.

Even before the show started, there had been some discussion about postponement, but first time competitors T&T Defence Force Steel Orchestra argued that they were due to leave the country today and would have missed their chance if the show was postponed.

The decision to continue with the show came at about 9.30 p.m.

when the other four soloists were given their chance to perform. The interruption (from 8.10 p.m.) caused the Ramajay to-go until 2 a.m. Sunday.

At the end of the proceedings, Panazz players had for the second year in a row emerged the champions.

Among the soloists, Duvonne Stewart, playing Baron's "Sweet Soca Man" came out tops winning the trophy and the \$1,500 which goes to the champion soloist. He obtained 272 points. He beat Hayden Ifill (269), Anthony Guppy (262), Natasha Joseph (254) and Aldon Moore (240).

Panazz players scored 552 to win the trophy and the \$20,000 first prize. Following them were: Lincoln Enterprises Pan Ensemble (536); Tropical Angel Harps (528), Stryke Stars (526), T&T Defence Force

(521), Phase II Pan Groove (518), Starlift (515), Petrotrin Invaders (509), San Juan All Stars (507.5) and Infocus (490).

The second third, fourth and fifth bands received \$12,000, \$10,000, \$8,000 and \$7,000 respectively, while bands placing sixth to tenth received \$4,000 each.

Officials of Pan Ramajay were happy about the level of attendance but expressed concern that for both the semi-final and final of the contest, which was supposed to be a signal event in Carifesta VI, Prime Minister Patrick Manning chose to throw parties for visiting Carifesta contingents.

They expected total support from the visitors for this event which was postponed from its normal sun-kissed time of May to the rainy August, just to be part of Carifesta VI.