

10 March 1989

Both camps claim victory

THERE was an even split among early winners with liberals and conservatives each claiming seven victories in early returns.

Leading the conservatives were veteran politicians Mr Hilton Cheong-Leen of Wan Chai and Mr Brook Bernacchi of Shau Kei Wan.

Others included Mr Almon Poon Chin-hung of Tuen Mun East, Mr Cheung Hon-chung of North, Mr Wong Kwok-tung of Yau Tsim, and incumbents Mr Peter Chan Chi-kwan of Kowloon City West and Mr Chan Kwok-ming of Mong-kok.

Voters returned liberal candidates, incumbent Mr James Wong Man-tai of Kwai Chung West and Tsing Yi, and Mr Man Sai-cheong of North Point.

Also among the ranks of the liberals were incumbents Mr Albert Chan Wai-yip of Tsuen Wan, Mr Lau Kong-wah of Sha Tin West and Mr Lam Chak-piu of Kwun Tong East and Mr Michael

Lai Kam-cheung of Tai Po.

So far, only one liberal winner, Mr Tony Kan Chung-nin of Sha Tin East, is a new face.

Neither side was heading for a decisive victory with the vote counting going into the early hours of the morning.

Earlier, Wong Tai Sin North candidate Miss Cecilia Yeung Lai-yin appeared to be determined to retain her Urban Council seat last night.

Although both her rivals, Mr Ng Ngok-shing and Mr Kan Chi-ho, appeared to be tiring after a full day of canvassing, Miss Yeung had a surprise for them two hours before the voting closed.

A 12-metre-high sign, supported by bamboo scaffolding, was erected outside the Chuk Yuen indoor sports centre urging electors to vote for her.

It was a shock to all, not least the electoral officials.

They asked Miss Yeung to remove the board but she and her aides insisted that

there was nothing wrong with the board.

When they finally agreed to give in, the clock had already struck 10.30 pm — time for polling centres to close — and the argument became meaningless.

More than 16,483 constituents cast their ballots yesterday. This represented about 19 per cent of the registered voters in Wong Tai Sin North, or a 5.6 per cent drop compared with the 1986 polls.

But this still ranked first in terms of turnout rates in the Urban Council area.

Although the fight in the constituency had been predicted to be fierce, the day was fairly uneventful — apart from the signboard incident.

Wong Tai Sin North appeared to be one of the most peaceful battlegrounds in this election.

More than 30 campaign aides for each candidate who lined up outside each polling station, spent more time talking to their rivals than in canvassing for votes.