

Cawley Facing Valley League

By JOE HART

It'll be Farmington's one-man gang—Warren Cawley—against the powerful Saginaw Valley League in the state Class A high school track meet Saturday at Michigan State University.

It's never been done, but it's possible that one individual, the long-legged Cawley, may score enough points to capture the team championship.

CAWLEY, rated the state's finest prep track athlete since the fabulous Hayes Jones competed for Pontiac Central in 1936, may be responsible for registering 24 points for Farmington in the meet.

Providing he doesn't trip over a hurdle and fall flat on his face, Cawley will be a

cinch to win both of the timber events. He has tied the national scholastic mark of 13.9 seconds in the 120-yard high hurdles and he set the state record of 19 seconds in the 180-yard low hurdles last year. A 22-foot or better broad jumper, Cawley will be one of the favorites in that event. In addition, Cawley is the anchor man on Farmington's better than average 880-yard relay team.

A torrid scramble for points between the three Valley powers, defending champion Pontiac Central, Flint Central and Flint Northern, may keep the winning team total under 30 points.

A slip or two here and there by the favorites and a surprise performance or two

by lesser known individuals could make a team champion out of Cawley.

PONTIAC CENTRAL will be attempting to accomplish what only one other team in state meet history has been able to do—win five successive championships. Saginaw High turned the trick from 1945 to 1949.

There's plenty of precedent for establishing the Valley powers as favorites. Only once in the last 16 years has the Valley's reign over the state track teams been cracked. That was in 1951 when Grand Rapids Ottawa Hills dethroned Flint Northern.

Pontiac Central's title defense hopes Saturday will rest in the field events where the Chiefs may score more than 20 points. Shot putters Bill Prichett and Charley Brown and high jumper Fred Brooks are the Chiefs' top performers.

FLINT CENTRAL, which edged Pontiac Central by less than a point in this year's Valley track meet, will be a slight favorite to succeed the Chiefs. Sprinter Ron Watkins and half-milers George Fredrickson and Gary Grenshaw are the top Flint Central individual prospects to score points.

With quarter-miler Dennis Wright, broad jumper Jim Hodo and two crack relay teams Flint Northern could score enough points to win a close team scrap.

Arthur Hill, led by miler Bob Hill, broad jumper Bart Mauro, quarter-miler Jim Bublitz and low hurdler Joe Mason, is hoping to score enough points to land among the top 10 teams. Saginaw High's R. A. Stephens will be among the threats in the 220-yard dash while sophomore Leroy Branch could surprise in the 440.

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HIS DEATH WAS the fifth across the nation this year in practice and tryouts for the 500-mile classic, according to Henry Banks, director of competition for the United States Auto Club (USAC), which sponsors the event.

Marshall Teague was killed in practice at Daytona Beach, Fla., in February, George Amick died in a crash at the same track during a 100-mile race last month, and Dick Linder was killed in a 100-miler at Trenton, N.J., April 20.

Banks said all the fatal crashes were different.

"There is no pattern," he said. "I have no explanation."

Cortner, who began his career in midgets on the West Coast in 1949, was married but had no children. He had spent most of his racing career in the small cars in California, and did not have any experience in the USAC championship trial in the Speedway type roadster.

STRONG WINDS of up to 30 miles an hour plagued the driving at the speedway when Cortner was killed. Johnnie Parsons, winner of the 1959 500-mile race, said he witnessed the crash from an observer's post.

He said Cortner was caught in a cross wind and that the car shot into the infield and back across the track to slam into the outside wall.