

# Central Aims for 36th Valley Track Title Friday

By LEN HOYES

Flint trackmen can't get too much of a good thing. Hence, there's special interest in Central High's championship aspirations Friday night at Saginaw High where nine Saginaw Valley Conference teams get together in the 36th annual

track meet. Field events begin at 4:30, prelims in the dashes and hurdles at 5 and the running finals at 7:45. One record is assured in the two-mile, a new event, and there are good chances for broken marks in the 100, 220,

both hurdles, the high jump and mile. It appears that Central has the best chance to maintain Flight's domination which began in 1958. Northern (six times), Central (three) or Southwestern (1966) have brought home the title ev-

ery time. The title is expected to be a year when Southwestern, led by Laverne Miller's individual brilliance, produced the school's first Valley title. Like 1966, Friday's affair has further ramifications because the winner will be regarded as a prime contender for the state

championship on May 27. Central's strength lies in five men, all capable of first places and the vital six points which go to the winner on a 6-4-3-2-1 basis. High jumper Freels Bacon, miler Jim Love and two-miler Jim Morse are undefeated out-

doors this spring. Sprinter Herb Washington has lost only to teammate Robert Patton. If this quintet can produce, there's a possibility of 38 points. That's more than two-thirds of the way toward Southwestern's 54-point total last year. The winner has averaged

51 points during the last four years. Central has capable second-line strength, most notably hurdler John Early, quartermilers Marcus Vinson and Ken Johnson, halfmiler Clevan Laster, high jumpers Jesse Lakes and Russ Carson and pole vaulters Tom Quinn and John Moliassa. Their ability to score will determine the Indians' fate. The Indians also have able mile relay and 880 relay teams but traditionally have trouble with baton passes.

Bacon and Love are defending champions and each has a chance to break the record in his specialty. Bacon, who won for Northern last year, is against a standard of 6-5½ while Love bumps into the 4-26.7 mark he set in 1965. Northern's Gene Lee is defending champ in the pole vault but has topflight opposition from Pontiac's Earl Polk and Ken Franks. Coach Norbert Badar can expect points from sprinter William Wallace, shot putter Gordon Brown and two relay teams. Miller last year totaled 17 points — the best individual total since at least 1949 — and is defending champ in the long jump. Also back to defend 1966 titles is Pontiac's fabulous hurdler, Bill Tipton, who needs only a fair break from the weatherman to wipe out two of the five oldest meet records. Pontiac has several good distance runners and a great 880 relay team to supplement Tipton and its pole vaulters. The Chiefs' victories over Central in last week's Central Michigan Relays (outdoors) and the Central Michigan Invitational (indoors) on April 7 are ample indication of the job facing Flint on Friday. Other individuals to watch are Midland's fine distance man Don Yehle and teammate Bob Rosselit in the 440 and Bay City Central sprinter Kennon Murphy. If they don't win, it's possible that Flint and Pontiac will account for all first places for the second straight year.

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