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SH, AH Only Hoping

Midland Has Shot at East Track Title

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Last year's Saginaw Valley Conference track meet was dominated by the four Flint contingents. But, Midland's Chemics could change all that this time around.

Flint Southwestern and Flint Central finished one-two in the East while Flint Northern and Flint Northwestern did the same in the West Division of the SVC a year ago. Southwestern and Central seem to have lost some of their punch, but Northwestern is fresh from a strong showing in the Flint city championship meet with a record 86½ points.

Midland has strong depth, which is always important in the Valley meet. The Chemics, hosting the meet next Friday at 7 p.m., have had to overcome a few injuries this season, but could take all the marbles in the East.

Saginaw High is a young team, which has been beset by a long list of injuries that have hampered the Trojans' preparation for the meet. Coach Claude Marsh will have his charges ready, but will need some exceptional performances by sophomores to make a dent in the team standings.

Arthur Hill has been an improved team over last year, but its best performances are not up to the standards set by Northwestern, Northern and Pontiac Central.

No individual records were set in the Flint city championship meet. So, there isn't the talent floating around the ovals like the past few years. Northwestern, which lost by 3½ points to Northern last season, and Pontiac should battle it out for the West Title.

Northwestern junior Blake Thomas and sophomore Brian Coles give the Wildcats a strong run in the hurdle events. Coles has hit 20.5 seconds in the highs. Nate Johnson has turned in a 50.7-second 440 dash and Cas

Washington has run the two-mile in 10:19.0. Northern's mile relay team has a 3:29.1 clocking and Northwestern's 880-yard relay foursome has hit the tape at 1:30.2.

Most of the top times turned in by the Flint runners exceed Midland, Saginaw High and Arthur Hill's accomplishments this season. But, in a meet such as this when all are thrown together anything could be the outcome.

Since Midland has the home track advantage, that could prove very favorable. The Chemics' are counting on hurdler Mike Stuparek for a strong showing. He has a 14.95 clocking in the highs and a 19.9 mark in the lows. Both were turned in at the Mansfield Relays. His best since then has been 15.1 in the highs and 20.3 in the lows.

Mike Budek and Al Sabin give the Chemics strength in the 880 and mile, Randy Holye has gone 6-2 in the high jump and 12-0 in the pole vault, Nick Carter 52.0 in the 440, and Midland's 880-yard relay team has turned in a 1:33.1 time.

Saginaw High's Ken McKinnon has a pulled groin muscle and may not run in the low hurdles. He is the defending champion in the long jump and high hurdles. Reggie Jones, who hit a 10.0 time in the 100 just before pulling a leg muscle, hasn't run in two weeks. Mike Thomas is also out while the relay teams are not running at full power.

Midland has a good shot at the East title, but will have to battle the Flint power to get it. Northwestern and Pontiac will scramble for the West crown.

The best Saginaw High and Arthur Hill, once the cream of the crop in the Valley, can hope for is some individual honors or maybe a miracle.