

Hills Battle Tough FNW, PC

SH, Midland Fight It Out in East

BY BILL AYVAZIAN
 News Staff Writer

The high school track season seems to have just gotten underway, but it's already time for the Saginaw Valley League track titles to be decided.

Midland Dow will host the event, which will run Saturday instead of the traditional Friday night slot. Dow does not have lights for its all-weather track so preliminaries will begin at 10 a.m. and finals are slated to get underway at 1:30 p.m.

Midland is the defending East champ, while Flint Northwestern returns to defend its West Division title. Both appear to be repeat favorites.

Midland has the depth to take it in the East, but Saginaw High will be fighting for a lot of first place finishes and with some help from the younger members of the team could unseat the Chemics.

Northwestern appears to be the best team out of Flint this season, but Pontiac Central is always a threat.

Midland Dow, Arthur Hill and Flint

Northern have some individuals good enough to win, but not enough team strength.

Saginaw High, the state's Class A runner-up to Oak Park last season, has virtually the same team back this season but once again injuries are hampering the Trojans.

"We haven't had a full squad running yet this season," said Saginaw High Track Coach Claude Marsh, "But, we'll just go into the meet with what we have and try and do the best we can."

Marsh has the state's defending 100 and 220 champ in Reggie Jones, and also such outstanding athletes as Bob Chapman, Willie Dawkins and Larry Foster.

Other Trojans that could give Saginaw High some badly needed first place finishes are Brian Bailey in the pole vault, Larry Bradshaw in the 440 and sprinters Ken Dozier, Reggie Carter and Robert Walker in the relays.

"If we run to the top of our efficiency we can win quite a few events. The depth problem could hurt us if Midland places high in a lot of events while winning others," said Marsh.

Arthur Hill coach John McCarger lacks the sprinters and relay teams to compete with Northwestern and Pontiac for the title, but the Hillites are strong in the field events and distance races.

Paul Walderzak is strong in the shot put along with Curt Thon, who is also a top contender for high jump honors as well as helping out in the relays.

Bob Brechtelsbauer and Brian Wilson should get the Hills some points in the pole vault, while Gary Champagne in the 880, John Deering in the mile and Paul Zucker in the two mile could come through.

The News' area track listings include Saginaw High, Arthur Hill, Dow and Midland. Jones leads in the 100 and 220 in the first listing 4 of a week ago. Zucker has the best two mile time, while Midland leads in the mile relay and Dow holds down the top spot in the 440 relay.

The Chemics will get a lot of mileage out

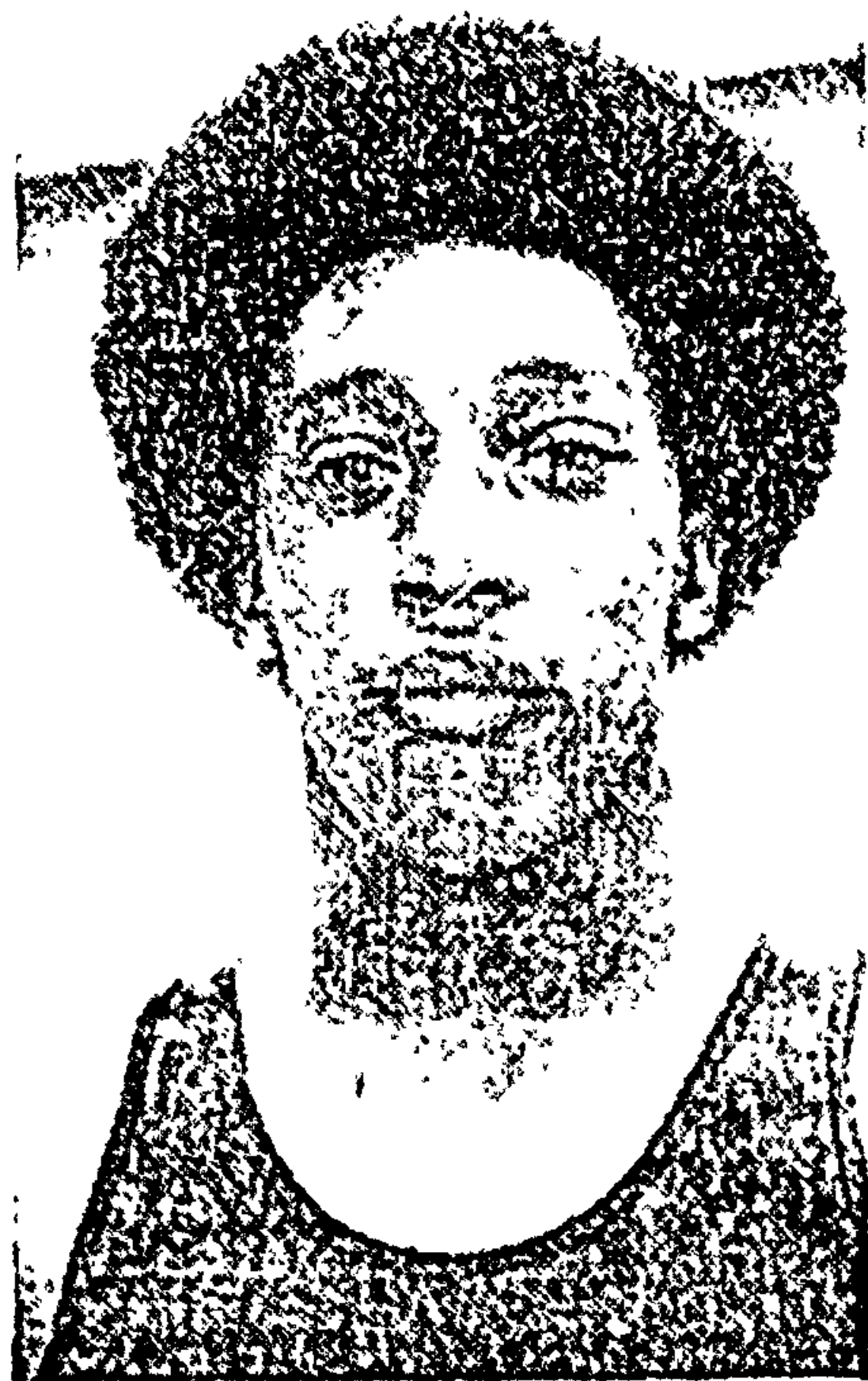
Hawks Hurtina.

of Jeff Mesler in the sprints and relays' Rick Smith in the hurdle events, Dave Lanigan in the pole vault, Kim Altman and Mark Braman in the long jump, and Scott Holder and Jeff Randolph in the distance events.

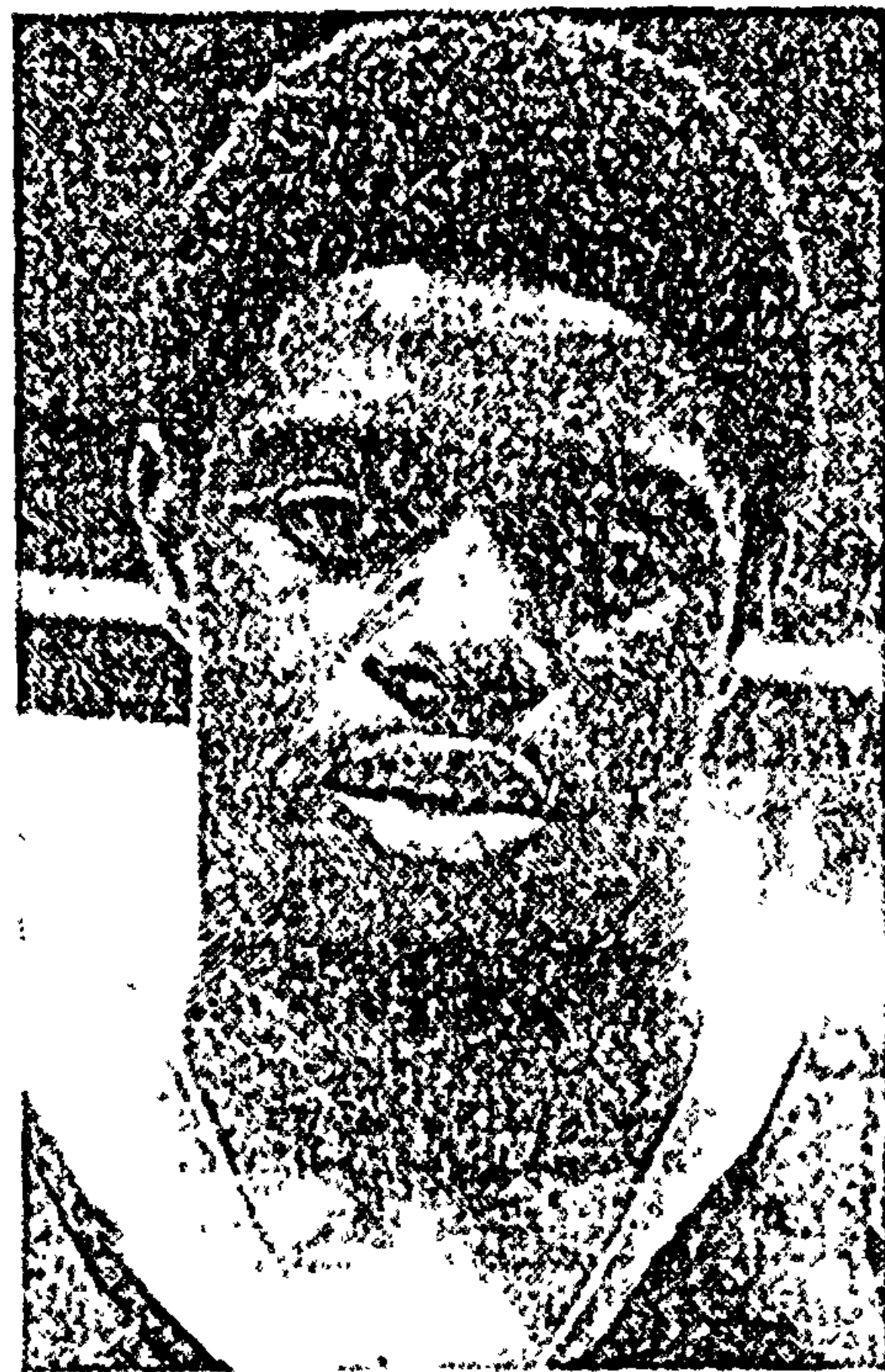
Dow's top sprinter, Mark Poli, is nursing a pulled hamstring muscle and is doubtful for Saturday. That could seriously detract from the Chargers' relay efforts.

Other Chargers that could turn the trick for Dow are Rick Burks in the high jump, Paul Miller in the 880, and Paul Grabel in the mile.

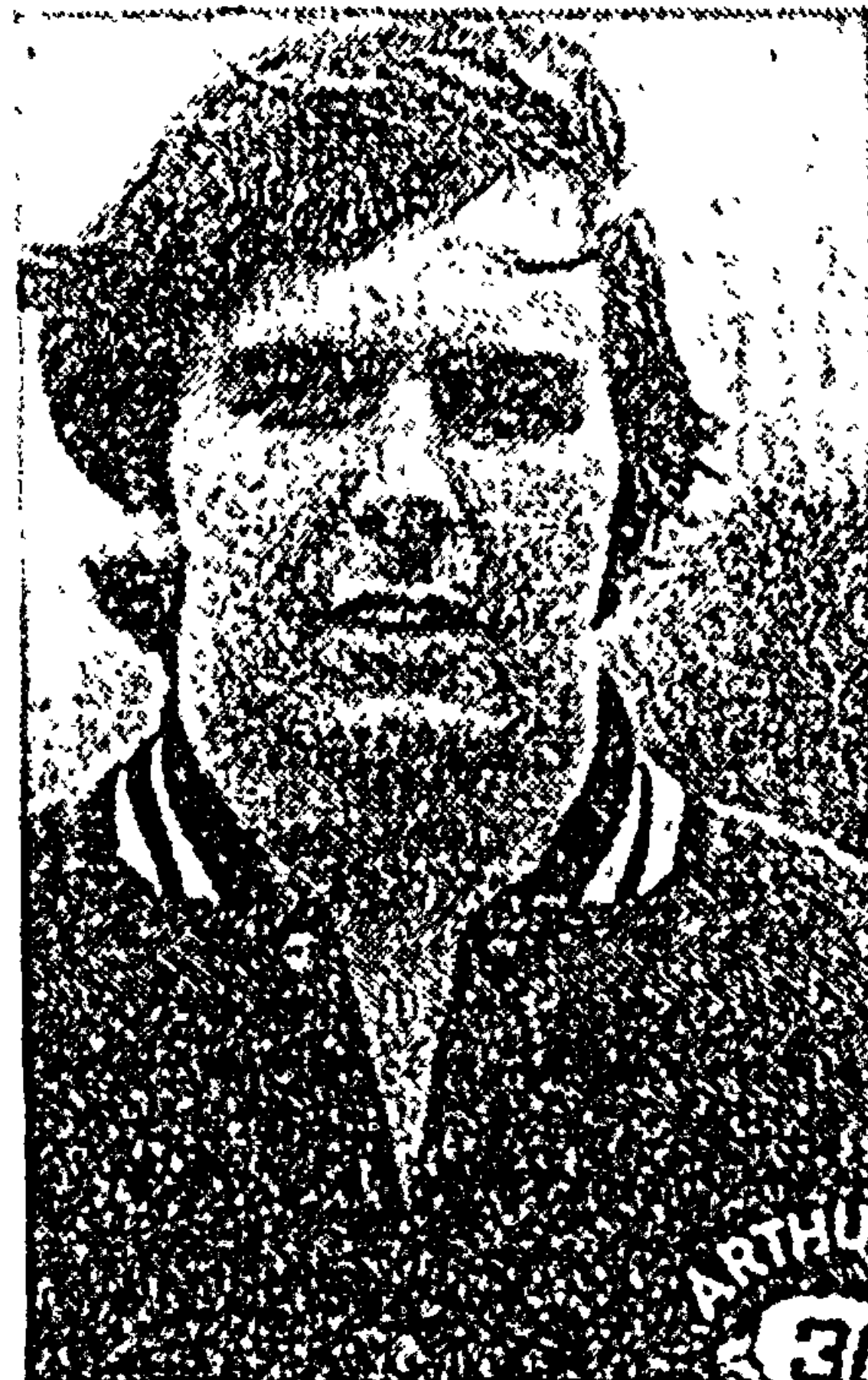
The weather hasn't been cooperative this season thus far, so a clear, warm day could produce the season's top efforts. Injuries have plagued many teams this season, so it appears as though most of the runners will be going for places instead of times this week and saving the best for the regional and state meets.



REGGIE JONES
 ... None better



BOB CHAPMAN
 ... HJ, Relay Power



PAUL WALDERZAK
 ... Tough in Shot

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