

# Northern trackmen live up to Badar's rating



Colt contributors (from left) James Brewer, Brad Simpson, Booker Moore and Rodney Feaster

By LEN HOYES  
Journal Sports Writer

GRAND RAPIDS — There was some thought that Norbert Badar, veteran track coach at Flint Northern, overstepped early in the spring when he called his Vikings "the best balanced team I've ever had."

If Badar was putting them on the spot, they lived up to expectations Saturday when the Vikings took the Class A state track title with a convincing 44 points in a 136-team meet at Houseman Field.

For the second straight year, Flint celebrated a 1-2 finish. Defending champion Southwestern was runner-up with 35 points, outpointing pre-meet favorite Ypsilanti by winning the final event.

Flint Northwestern, suffering a "down" day in the 85-degree heat, scored 24½ points but finished a respectable ninth.

IN A DAY of team success, there also was individual success.

Southwestern took the 880 and 440 relays, equaling a record in the former event with a time of 1:27.9 and taking

the shorter race in 42.6.

The Colts' Brad Simpson, who helped on the 880 team, stunned the field with a time of 48.6 in the 440-yard dash despite running in the next-to-last heat which supposedly couldn't produce a winner.

Rob Cummings gave Carman its first Class A state champ with a time of 14.3 seconds for the 120-yard high hurdles.

Sprinter Mike Miller, a sophomore, took the 220 in 21.6 for Northern.

Teammate Rich MacInnes won the 880 in 1:55.3.

SIX VICTORIES are the most by the Flint area contingent since the same number in 1963. That year had further significance because it was the last time Northern ranked No. 1.

Flint contestants also took five second places.

Badar said, "I could tell they were ready today. They wanted to win badly. And we were healthy, too, especially the 880 relay team."

Third place by the team of Miller

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Journal Photo

# Vikings live up to Badar's track rating

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James Allen, Cahres Davis and Dan Greene gave the Vikings a tremendous lift in the opening event.

Then MacInnes, who may be the Vikings' most improved man this spring, delivered victory in the 880. One event later Ed Taylor chased Cummings to victory in the high hurdles.

Taylor had disappointed Badar earlier by failing to qualify for the low hurdles final. "But he more than redeemed himself in the highs," Badar said.

**WHEN MILLER** placed second in the 100, Northern got another seven

points. Cal McQueen's third place in the two-mile added six points and Miller led Southwestern's Rod Feaster in a Flint 1-2 in the 220 for eight points.

It mattered not that Northern failed to place in the mile relay. The victory was locked up.

Badar said, "I felt we were in with two events to go."

For Northern, it was the fifth title since 1949, equaling Pontiac Central as the king for that period. It was the 23rd title in 33 years for the Saginaw Valley Conference and the 14th time Valley teams have finished 1-2.

**SOUTHWESTERN WAS** No. 2 with only five men. Feaster, Simpson, James Brewer and Booker Moore were

the record-tying 880 relay team and Reggie Mitchell replaced Simpson on the 440 team which was only three-tenths of a second off the record.

Northwestern's points came from Charlie Sprinkle's second place in the low hurdles, his fourth place in the highs, Gary Nichols' fifth in the 220 and a tie for fifth in the 440 relay. Nichols anchored the foursome with Milt Chaney, Walter Lang and Leo Blanchard.

Flint Central totaled 13 points via Ted Dobson's fifth place in the 440 and second place in the mile relay. Dobson anchored Reuben Martin, Mark Bulmash and Bob Badour. By scoring, Central maintained its magic record of being the only team to score in every

meet since Detroit public schools returned to the Class A championships in 1962.

**CUMMINGS'** determination to be No. 1 was something to behold. His face was distorted as he zipped over hurdle after hurdle.

He said, "I was almost in another world but I woke up when I hit two hurdles. I don't know if they were the seventh and eighth or the eighth and ninth. I just wanted to win."

Flint Kearsley scored nine points, sophomore Dave Podsadecki placing fourth in the mile and Jeff Henderson fifth in the two-mile.

**SWARTZ CREEK'S** eight points

came from Rob Southwell's fourth in the discus — the best toss of his career — and Gary Parenteau's sixth in the two-mile.

Five other Flint area teams were among the 69 which didn't score.

A 1972 high jump record of 6-9 by Reggie Ferguson, formerly of Flint Northwestern, was wiped out by three men who cleared 6-9½.

Detroit Cass Tech lowered the mile relay record to 3:18.2, three-tenths better.

An automatic record went to Skip Ballish, Royal Oak Dondero, who threw the discus 157-9.

In the team scoring, Ypsilanti was third with 34½. Then came Grand Rapids Creston 32, Detroit Cass 30, Grosse Pointe North 29, Dearborn 24½, Jackson 22½, Northwestern 21¾ and Pontiac Northern 20½ in the top 10.



**Rob Cummings**

Hurdles to Class A victory