

Northern leads 1-2-3-4 Flint finish in Valley track meet

By LEN HOYES
Journal sports writer

SAGINAW — Team depth was the deciding factor Wednesday night as Flint Northern's boys survived a "civil war" to retain the Saginaw Valley Conference track championship in the 79th annual meet.

Coach Norbert Badar's 13th league title hinged upon the final event but his 1,600-meter relay team relieved any worry by romping to victory and stretching the final margin to 15½ points and a final total of 99½.

Flint schools finished 1-2-3-4 in the 11-school meet and won every event except the discus and high jump.

Central was runner-up with 84, Northwestern third with 69 and Southwestern fourth with 63.

Then came Saginaw 62, Midland 30½, Midland Dow 26, Bay City Western 25, Saginaw Arthur Hill 17, Bay City Central 10½ and Pontiac Central 10.

PARTLY BECAUSE OF injuries, absences and some performances below expectations, Northern fought uphill against the combined forces of the three Flint rivals and Saginaw

It scored in 13 of 16 events and captured two places in four individual events.

With only the 1,600 relay left, Northern had a lead of 7½ points over Central. The Vikings had to finish at least fourth to claim the title if Central won the race.

The anxiety became needless

when the baton was knocked from the grasp of Central's George McNair during a tightly-bunched second leg. Even if Central had won, Northern would have been second. When Kenford Wilson, Kevin Doan, Stanley Ruth and Anthony Bowie breezed to a 3:23.5 victory, they doubled the final margin.

PROMINENT in the victory was senior Chris Williams who ran a leg of the winning 800-meter relay and finished second in the 400 meters.

Because of a leg injury, Williams was held out of the long jump where he was top seeded.

Badar had planned to keep him on the sidelines until sophomore Will Palmer missed the bus.

The veteran coach said, "Palmer had oral surgery on Monday but I haven't seen him since. We had to use Williams even though it was taking a chance. We allowed him to use his own judgment and he came through.

"Our field event crew had a down day and Ruth didn't do well in the 800 because he got boxed in. But he came back and was a big factor in winning the last relay. And Charles Flippen gave us a cushion with fourth place in the 3,200."

MICHAEL LACY pole vaulted a personal best of 14½ to break the only meet record and save face for the Viking field eventers.

Robert Lemuel captured the difficult distance double, the 1,600 meters in 4:36.3 and the 3,200 in 9:26.6. Bowie, who earlier anchored

the 800-meter relay victory, won the 300-meter hurdles in 38.1.

His teammates on the 800 were Kevin Doan, Quinton Estes and Williams.

MARK INGRAM was the kingpin of a six-man Northwestern team, winning the 110 hurdles for the second year in 14.8, the long jump at 23-8¾ and anchoring the winning 400-meter relay to a 42.8 victory. Mel Houston, Andre Rison and Gordon Mitchner were his partners.

Rison, a sophomore, beat regional champion Derrick Leonard in the 200 meters at 22.4 after Leonard had won the 100 meters in 10.7.

Archie Smyers produced Central's other victory with a 49.6 clocking in the 400 meters.

The Indians put pressure on Northern by placing in 13 events and were in first place at the midpoint.

"We came to run," said Coach Mike Vance.

DON YOUNGER took the 800 meters in 2:01.5 and Tony Cole won the shot put at 48-9½ for Southwestern. The Colts scored in 10 events but were blanked in the sprints and hurdles.

The only victories to escape the Flint foursome went to Saginaw's Vince Davis at 6-1 in the high jump and Saginaw Arthur Hill's Tony Atwater at 138-5 in the discus.

Badar's teams have won titles in six of the last nine years, including four times when the conference was split into East and West divisions.

Results of Saginaw Valley Conference boys' track meet

Saginaw Valley Conference

Team scoring and legend — Flint Northern (N) 99½, Flint Central (C) 84, Flint Northwestern (NW) 69, Flint Southwestern (SW) 63, Saginaw (S) 62, Midland (M) 30½, Midland Dow (D) 26, Bay City Western (W) 25, Saginaw Arthur Hill (H) 17, Bay City Central (BC) 10½, and Pontiac Central (P) 10.

Running distances in metrics

Discus — 1 Tony Atwater (AH) 2 Jim Schultz (W), 3 Tim Knight (D) 4 Jerry Kelping (W) 5 Johnnie Wynn (SW) 6 Jon Miller (M) 7-138.5

Shot put — 1 Tony Cole (SW) 2 Miller (M) 3 Daryl Gilliam (C) 4 Knight (D) 5 Avery Jackson (NW) 6 Frank Robinson (N) 7-48-9½

Pole vault — 1 Michael Lacy (N) 2 Matt Morrison (M) 3 Knight (D) 4 Keith Kennedy (BC) 5 Bruce Dunton (C) 6 Jon Gleason (N) 7-14-0½ (Breaks record of 13-11½ by Eugene Lee Flint Northern 1968)

High jump — 1 Vince Davis (S) 2 Dave Dever (D) 3 Bob Johnson (BC) 4 Stacy Johnson (C) 5 Rod McClure (N) 6 Ken Morris (N) 7 Mark Harvey (M) and Pat Hinman (BC) 7-6-1

Long jump — 1 Mark Ingram (NW) 2 Ron Moore (SW) 3 Andre Rison (NW) 4 Bobby Turner (S) 5 Ernest Henslie (S) 6 Tim Prince (S) 7-23-8¾ (Breaks record of 23-3 by Hayes Jones Pontiac Central, 1956 with wind aided).

110 hurdles — 1 Ingram (NW) 2 Anthony Bowie (N) 3 Phil Hendrix (C) 4 Brian Slachta (W) 5 Michael Green (N) 6 Andy Parker (C) 7-14.8

100 — 1 Derrick Leonard (C) 2 Rison (NW) 3 Terry McDaniel (S) 4 Jimmy Ford (S) 5 Prince (S) 6 Darnell Davis (S) 7-10-7

800 relay — 1 Northern (Kevin Doan, Quinton Estes, Chris Williams, Bowie) 2 Saginaw 3 Central (Archie Smyers, Ed Greer, Gilliam, David Burke) 4 Northwestern (Mel Houston, Ellie Stafford, Gordon Mitchner, Ingram) 5 Southwestern (Rod Watkins, Ron Hughes, Ed Hughes, Moore) 6 Arthur Hill 7-1:29.0

1,600 — 1 Robert Lemuel (N) 2 Donnell Ringon (SW) 3 James Walker (P) 4 Amo Bathish (C) 5 Eric Schneider (N) 6 Steve Deering (C) 7-4:36.3

400 relay — 1 Northwestern (Houston, Rison,

Mitchner, Ingram) 2 Central (Ed Greer, Daryl Greer, Gilliam, Leonard) 3 Saginaw 4 Northern (Deवान Jude, Keith Smith, Doan, Estes) 5 Southwestern (Torrence, Jarrett, Ed Hughes, Moore, Watkins), 6 Midland, 7-42.8

400 — 1 Smyers (C) 2 Williams (N) 3 Ron Hughes (SW) 4 Turner (S) 5 Mark Wilber (BC) 6 Shawn Carter (S) 7-49.6

300 hurdles — 1 Bowie (N) 2 Jim Shaffer (M) 3 Burke (C) 4 Willie Walker (P) 5 Parker (C) 6 Mark Jackson (S) 7-38.1

800 — 1 Don Younger (SW) 2 Stafford (NW) 3 Brian Sphyhaski (W) 4 Ringo (SW) 5 Craig Dunn (SW) 6 Stan Ruth (N) 7-2:01.5

200 — 1 Rison (NW) 2 Leonard (C) 3 Estes (N) 4 McDaniel (S) 5 Ford (S) 6 Mitchner (NW) 7-22.4

200 — 1 Lemuel (N) 2 Bathish (C) 3 Scott Day (AH) 4 Charles Flippen (N) 5 Jon Snyder (D) 6 Ben Tabb (SW) 7-9:26.6

1,600 relay — 1 Northern (Kenford Wilson, Doan, Ruth, Bowie) 2 Southwestern (Lavelle Kinnell, Younger, Dunn, Ron Hughes) 3 Saginaw 4 Midland 5 Central (Smyers, George McNair, Gilliam, Burke), 6 Bay City Western, 7-3:23.5