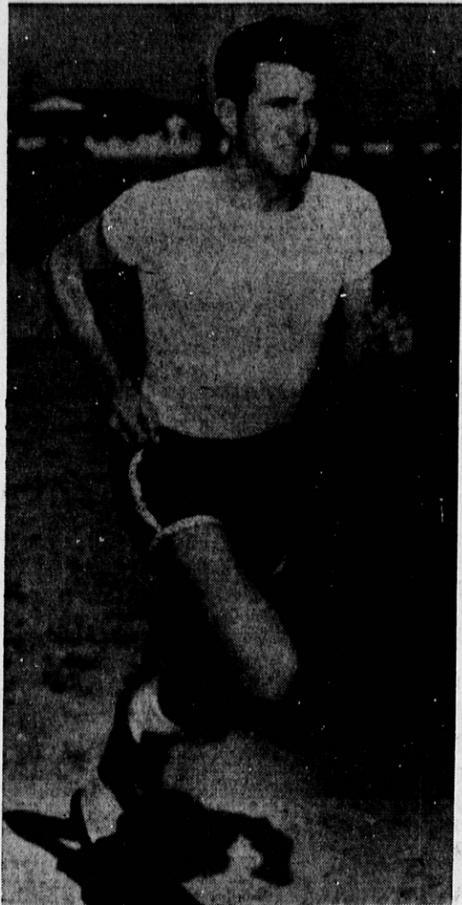


# Zamperini's 26 Year Mile Record Erased by Mike Thornton, 4:21.1



**MIKE THORNTON**  
Breaks 26 year record by tenth of a second.

**RECORD FALLS . . .** Louis Zamperini shown here in 1941 held Torrance High School mile record for 26 years until Mike Thornton broke mark a week ago at Huntington Beach Relays. Zamperini held several records at Torrance, including world's interscholastic mile run. He later was Olympics star and NCAA champ at USC, and World War II hero. Louis is generally acclaimed as the greatest athlete ever to come out of the city.

By **BILL SCHIPPER**  
Herald Sports Editor

It almost passed unnoticed last week that the last of the great Louis Zamperini's Torrance High track records was wiped off the books. Mike Thornton, an up and coming junior distance ace, broke the former mile champ's 26-year 4:21.2 mark by a tenth of a second at the Huntington Beach Relays, although he finished behind another prep sensation from La Habra—15 year old Bruce Bess.

Zamperini is easily the greatest and most widely acclaimed athlete ever to come out of Torrance High—or the city for that matter.

He held the world's interscholastic mile record for 20 years, owned the NCAA mile record while running at USC for 15 years, was a member of the United States' 1936 Olympic team, was the first American (8th) to finish in the 5000 meters—although he was just out of high school.

His war record is a story in itself. Zamperini—who now lives in Hollywood and is an evangelist and a boys' camp counselor—is known as one of the 10 men who suffered most during World War II.

He was declared officially dead by the War Department, but turned up 2½ years later after surviving 47 days on a raft—longest in the history of the Armed Forces—and subsequent imprisonment by the Japanese.

**LOUIS RAN JUST** about every distance race there was to offer in high school.

At Torrance he set the school class B mark for the 1320, (3:17.9) which stood for 25 years until Dennis Hansen bettered the mark by .65 in '58.

His 4:21.2 mile was the world's interscholastic best for 20 years.

He graduated in January of '36 and subsequently made the Olympics squad. His 8th place finish in the 5000 meters was overshadowed somewhat when he made bigger news by shinning up a flag pole to swipe one of Hitler's swastikas, nearly creating an international incident.

At SC, his 4:08.3 mile in 1938 set an NCAA record that stood until West Santee ran 4:03.7 in 1953.

Louis ran in an era when track and field athletes could be considered "iron men." His personal record backs him up as one of the greatest such iron men in that era of the 30s and early 40s.

His parents, Anthony and Louise Zamperini of 2721 Sonoma here in Torrance, must have had mixed emotions when informed that Louis' last prep record had fallen.

**THORNTON COULD** become one of the greatest runners in the state before he graduates next year.

He came out of nowhere to place third in the CIF's cross-country ladder last fall, and is now just beginning to develop as a miler. He gets better and more confident each time out.

Mike has only run the mile against competition five times, four being in official meets. His slowest time has been 4:34, which is nothing to spit at.

When he topped the school record, his half-mile times were 2:11 and 2:10.1. Bruce Bess, the youngster from La Habra, won the race in 4:20.5. Gene Gurlie from Artesia High for third in the field of 29 runners, in 4:22.8, giving an indication of the stiff competition offered at the Relays.

Mike, 16, is also the best bet on Coach Joe Sarthou's team to break Jim Hester's school 880 record of 1:55.5, set in 1955.

**THORNTON HAS** only run the two-lapper once—in the first meet of the year—and was clocked at 2:01, the best time turned in by city runners so far.

I was sorry to see Zamperini's 26 year record fall, but Thornton promises to go a long way and will probably top his own mark in the not too distant future.

By the time he graduates, his strong legs should enable him to pick his own college scholarship.

Local prep track fans can watch him run this Friday in a tri meet at Torrance against Beverly Hills and Lennox.

## Robinson Doubles For South

Hurdler John Robinson swept the hurdle races Friday and South High remained unbeaten in six dual and triangular track and field meets by besting El Segundo and Beverly Hills on the latter's oval.

Robinson copped the highs in 15.4 and took the lows in 21.3 for the only double in the meet.

South also remained unbeaten on the class B and C levels.

### Summary

South High (77%), El Segundo (24%) at Beverly Hills (25%), 100—Tie among Kelly (D), Berman (S), Ross (S), 10.3. 220—Kelly (D), 22.7. 440—Fein (D), 53.3. 880—Pisher (D), 2:17. Mile—Ferry (S), 4:32.2. 120—HH—Robinson (S), 15.4. 180—LH—Robinson (S), 21.3. SP—Fein (D), 4:14. 300 in. HJ—24—wards (S), Smith (S), 5ft. 10 1/4 in. two-way tie. BJ—Varmon (S), 21ft. 2 1/2 in. PV—Tie among Rhoads (B), Smith (S), Segi (S), Alf. 8ft. 8 1/2 in. relap—South High 1:33.8. B SCORE—South High, 87; Beverly Hills, 84; El Segundo, 8.

## Johnston Hits For 20 in Amble League Game

The unbeaten Torrance Recs trailed for three quarters Wednesday but rallied in the final period to nip Christian Men, 20-19, in the Torrance Recreation Dept.'s Amble Basketball League in the Torrance High Girls' Gym.

Gordy Henderson was high scorer for the league leaders, with eight points, all coming in the third quarter. Jack Perry scored seven for the losers.

In other games, the Press defeated Sheriff's Men, 16 to 6, and the Redondo Hawks trimmed the Hollywood Riviera Sportsmen, 15 to 12.

Robert Connick scored eight points for the Redondo quint.

In Thursday night games, South Bay Church of God, sparked by a 20 point effort from Walt Johnston, upended the Vagabonds, 38-25, and the Post Office edged the Old Pros, 15-13.

### STANDINGS

(Wednesday School)

	W	L	GBL
Torrance Recs	9	0	—
Redondo Hawks	7	2	2
Press	5	4	4
Sportsmen	4	5	5
Christian Men	2	7	7
Sheriff's Men	0	9	9

### Thursday League

	W	L	GBL
SBCOG	8	1	—
Old Pros	7	2	1
Post Office	4	5	4
Tappa Keggas	4	5	4
Cal Bank	2	7	6
Vagabonds	2	7	6

## TORRANCE HERALD Sports

March 27, 1960

## Standings

### BAY LEAGUE

	W	L	Pct
Hawthorne	2	0	1.000
Mira Costa	2	0	1.000
Santa Monica	2	0	1.000
North	1	1	.500
Redondo	1	1	.500
Leuzinger	0	2	.000
Inglewood	0	2	.000
Morningside	0	2	.000

\*Games behind leader.

### Tuesday Scores

North 11, Morningside 5.  
Hawthorne 3, Redondo 2.  
Mira Costa 5, Leuzinger 1.  
Santa Monica 1, Inglewood 0 (eight innings).

### Tuesday's Games

Hawthorne at Mira Costa.  
Morningside at Leuzinger.  
North at Inglewood, (Centinela Park)  
Redondo at Santa Monica.

### PIONEER LEAGUE

	W	L	Pct
El Segundo	2	0	1.000
Culver City	2	0	1.000
Aviation	2	0	1.000
South	0	1	.000 1/2
Lennox	0	1	.000 1/2
Torrance	0	2	.000
Beverly Hills	0	2	.000

### Thursday Scores

El Segundo 8, Torrance 3  
Culver City 2, Beverly Hills 1  
Aviation 5, Lennox 4.

### Tuesday's Games

Lennox at South  
Beverly Hills at Torrance  
El Segundo at Culver City



**STEVE PARKER . . .** Banged three hits in four at bats Thursday off El Segundo's much publicized Bob Flynn but Pioneer League game. Parker, a junior, had two infield singles and a line smash as Flynn set Tartars down on four hits all told. Steve will be in starting line-up Tuesday when locals host Beverly Hills at Torrance Park. (Herald photo)

## El Camino Dumps Bakersfield, 6-2

Coach Chuck Freeman takes his El Camino College baseball club off on a two game road trip this week as the Warriors seek to lengthen their two game Metro Conference win skein.

Friday, the Tribe exploded for 12 base hits in dumping visiting Bakersfield, 6-2, as righthander Bob Anderson went all the way for the winners.

ECC, with a 2-1 record, plays at Santa Monica against the winless (3-0) Corsairs Tuesday, then tackles Long Beach at Blair Field on Thursday.

Both games will begin at 3 p.m.

Against Bakersfield, the Warriors came up with a three run outburst in the 7th to salt away their second conference win in three starts.

Stan Beard's triple and Dan Heun's single were key blows in the five-hit inning.

El Camino is a half a game out of first place.

Bakersfield 100 000 100-9 9 1  
Camino. 200 100 30x-6 12 0  
Valenzuela, Shafee (8), and Allmon; Anderson and Patera.

## Grunion Slated To Run Tonight

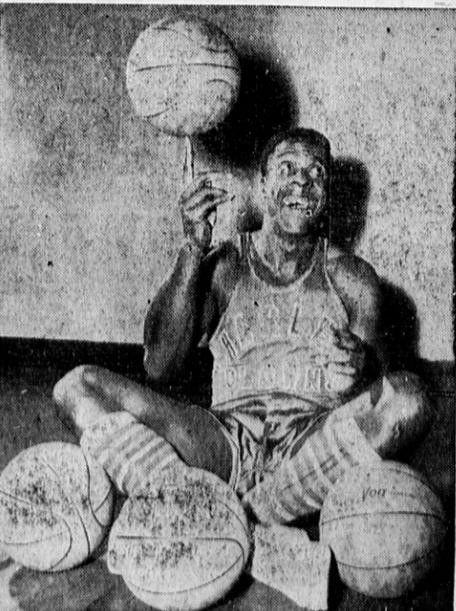
Grunion are scheduled to run for one hour tonight at local beaches, beginning at 9:30, according to the Dept. of Fish and Game.

The tiny, bluish and unpredictable silverfish are also scheduled to run tomorrow from 10 to 11, and Tuesday night from 10:30 to 11:30.

The grunion will make their next beach landings in June.

## El Camino Trackmen Lose Tri Meet

El Camino was defeated by Santa Monica and Bakersfield Friday in a triangular Metropolitan Conference track meet in Santa Monica.



**BIG BOB WOODS . . .** Veteran comic star of the famed Harlem Clowns, will lead the Negro hoop magicians Friday night when they play the Redondo all-stars at the Redondo High gym at 8 p.m. The all-stars, playing under the banner of Avery Bryant, copped the Torrance adult basketball championship recently.

## Winless Torrance To Play Normans

Winless Torrance will get a welcomed shot at hapless Beverly Hills Tuesday, South will host Lennox, and North will lug its suddenly explosive lumber into Centinela Park against Inglewood as the prep baseball season heads into its second week.

Last week Coach Irv Kasten's Torrance nine dropped two Pioneer League tilts, all but knocking the locals out of the championship picture even before the race is well under way.

**THURSDAY**, the Tartars were stymied by El Segundo's Bob Flynn and his roaring fast ball, 8-3, as the club's leading hitter, Billy Williams, watched the action from the bench with a sore elbow.

Williams, a senior third baseman, injured the arm Tuesday when he was hit by a pitch during the team's 7-6 loss to Culver City.

**NORTH**, on the other hand, flexed their muscles and came up with a big 9 run 4th inning that saw 13 batters parade to the plate in an 11-5 victory over Morningside on Thursday.

Saxon Rick Jacobs had a double and a single during the stormy frame as three Morningside pitchers yielded five singles, four walks, and Jacob's two-putt poke.

Coach Bob Shoup will probably pitch Dennis Hogue (3-2) against Inglewood Tuesday in an attempt to make it two in a row.

**SOUTH HAD** a day off from league activity Thursday but the Spartans got in their licks against Chadwick of Palos Verdes, and unleashed a vicious 13-hit assault that netted a 10-1 victory.

Bob Wehrman pitched the seven inning triumph, gave up only 4 hits and looked impressive to Coach Jerry McIlvaine. Shortstop Mike Andrews—who had 3 for 5—unloaded a towering home run over Chadwick's left field "Chinese screen" to highlight the batting barrage.

Joe Austin also had three hits, as did Rick Gomez, who just recently reported to the team.

McIlvaine has not named his starting pitcher for Tuesday yet, but indicated it could be either lefthander Larry Pace (1-2) or Austin, who has no record.

**TORRANCE WILL** probably pitch southpaw Ray Wilson against Beverly Hills, which coach Harold Sieling says is his worst team in 15 years at the school, then will throw Tom Richardson against South on Thursday in what promises to be another thrilling chapter in the intra-city rivalry.

## Carroll Shelby Top Entry in Grand Prix Sports Car Race

Colorful 37-year-old Carroll Shelby, winner of the world's most famous sports car race—the 24 hour LeMans endurance run—is top entrant for the International Grand Prix for sports cars, set April 2-3 at the Riverside raceway.

Shelby has said he will drive a new Maserati in the \$20,000-added race.



**CINDER CYCLONE . . .** Pat Lininger, North High Sprinter, is shown breaking tape on anchor leg of relay as North defeated Redondo in a dual meet Friday at North Lininger copped the 100 (10.1) and 440 (51.4) to high light win. (Herald photo).

## Huffman Clears Bar at 6'2"

Miler Mike Thornton ran a 4:27.8 and high jumper Gary Huffman cleared 6 ft. 2 inches for his season best Friday but Torrance's track and field team was defeated by Aviation, 72-32, in a Pioneer League meet.

Other Torrance event winners were Tony Bareford, 440 (52.8) and Tom Sloat in the broad jump (19 ft., 2 in.).

**Summary**  
100—Zandour (A), 10.7. 220—Culd (A), 23.5. 440—Bareford (T), 52.8. 880—Hahn (A), 2:02.2. Mile—Thornton (T), 4:27.8. HH—Hahn (A) 16.2. LH—Culd (A), 20.6. Relay—Aviation, 1:25.0. SP—Stevens (A), 45ft. 4 1/2 in. Huffman (T), 6ft. 2 in. BJ—Sivast (T), 19 ft. 2 in. PV—Graybill (A), 11ft. CLASS B—Torrance, 70 1/2; Aviation, 32 1/2. CLASS C—Aviation, 45; Torrance, 41.

## El Segundo Hurler Blanks Torrance

The El Segundo JV horsehiders halted Torrance's procession of five straight victories with a 2-0 no-hitter, played Thursday at Torrance Park.

Gary Vargo pitched seven hitless innings for the winners, walking only three batters and fanning eleven.

El Segundo 000 010 1-2 5 1  
Torrance . . . 000 000 0-0 0 1

## WILLIAMS' .428 TOP AVERAGE IN CITY

Torrance High veteran infielder Billy Williams is top man on the batting average totem pole for the city's prep baseballers. A senior third baseman, Williams has 12 safeties in 28 at bats for a .428 average, covering both non-league and Pioneer games.

Joe Austin, a two-year letterman for South at first base, has a .382 mark to top his team, while first baseman Dwayne Merrill of North leads the Saxons with a .333 average.

Top batting averages among players in the city's three high schools are:

Player	School	Pos.	AB	H	Avg.
Billy Williams	Torrance	3b	28	12	.428
Joe Austin	South	1b	34	13	.382
Mike Andrews	South	ss	32	12	.375
Steve Parker	Torrance	OF	27	10	.370
Jim Armstrong	Torrance	1b	36	13	.361
Dwayne Merrill	North	1b	36	12	.333
Bob Martin	North	OF	15	5	.333
Jack Golphene	North	ss	34	11	.324
Frank Van Patten	North	OF	28	8	.289
Larry Anderson	South	3b	30	8	.267
Steve McGuire	Torrance	C	32	8	.250
Dave Marsden	North	C	36	9	.250