

Thornton Places Second in Mile At State Prep Track Meet — 4:15.5

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Red Devils Nip San Pedro in Exhibition, 5-4

The Torrance Red Devils made an impressive baseball debut Sunday in nipping San Pedro 5 to 4 in an exhibition Connie Mack League contest at Torrance Park.

The locals struck for nine hits off two San Pedro pitchers while three Red Devil firemen were limiting the invaders to just six safeties in the nine-inning contest.

Big man for the Red Devils was Steve Ramirez, who went 3 for 5 and scored two runs. Billy Morris, who pitched the first four innings, had two hits in three trips to the plate.

Torrance sent nine men to the plate during a four-run second inning that saw six base hits—including two doubles—and two bases on balls.

The locals officially begin their 1960 championship bid on Sunday when they travel to Lennox High to meet Hawthorne at 3 p.m.

San Pedro 120 000 001-4 6 1
Torrance 140 000 000-5 9 0

Bulich, Marlon, and Mladinal, Cherne, Morris, Torok, Cukus, and Olsen.



STATE RUNNER-UP . . . Torrance High's Mike Thornton and Coach Joe Sarthou talk over summer training schedule after miler places second in the state meet at Stanford University Stadium with a 4:15.5 clocking. Thornton, an 11th grader, plans to run in AAU "all comer" meets this summer. Coach Sarthou predicts that prep milers will be assaulting once unbreakable 4:00 barrier by 1970. (Herald photo)

Tucker Wins Race in 4:14.3

BY BILL SCHIPPER
Herald Sports Editor

Torrance High School's 16-year-old Mike Thornton shaved five seconds off his previous best mile time and placed second in the fastest prep four-lap field in history Saturday at the 42nd state meet in Palo Alto, with a 4:15.5 clocking.

Thornton finished behind San Francisco Poly's Ben Tucker who was timed in 4:14.3 in Stanford University Stadium. The first six runners across the finish line were under 4:18.

The meet featured the state's best track and field men from the northern, central, and southern CIF sections and the Los Angeles City Schools System.

Thornton, an 11th grader, believes that if he had started his final lap "kick" sooner he would have won the remarkable mile duel with Tucker, who clipped 10 seconds off his previous all-time best.

As it was, he became the third Torrance High miler in the school's history to place as high as he did at the state meet. Louis Zamperini (1934) and John Hall (1939) were state champions at that distance in their respective years, but Thornton's time was from 10:15 seconds under either of his predecessors.

In finishing second behind the northern California flash, Thornton beat out the only two runners who had previous wins over him—La Habra's 15-year-old Bruce Bess and Artesia's Gene Gurule, both of whom tied for fifth at 4:17.5.

Thornton and Bess were the only non-seniors in the field of 16 in the race.

Mike and his coach—Joe Sarthou, who is just one year out of college and in his first coaching assignment—attribute the

fast field to perfect weather conditions, an excellent cinder track, and the "pushing" milers.

The temperature was in the high 90s at noon, but by the time the mile was given the starter's gun the weather was "ideal".

Last year's top six in the mile was barely under 4:20 as it went for the nation's top all-time field.

Saturday's results and times prompted Coach Sarthou to predict that high school milers would be assaulting the 4:00 minute barrier in about eight or nine years.

Torrance High's Gary Huffman, who qualified for the state meet with a 6'4½" high jump at the CIF finals, bowed out after a six foot jump. His event was won with a 6'6½" vault.

Jordan High of Los Angeles won its second state championship by nipping Castlemont of Oakland 15 to 14.

Torrance tied for 16th with three other schools with four points, all earned by Thornton. Some high points in the meet were a 1:51.9 half mile by Bonita's Ray Van Asten, a 607' shot put, a 47.2 440, and the mile race.

- THE FIELD
1. Ben Tucker, S.F. Poly 4:14.3
 2. Mike Thornton, Torr 4:15.5
 3. Harry McCalla, Brkly. 4:15.6
 4. Bob Johnson, Bkrsfld. 4:17.2
 5. Gene Gurule, Artesia 4:17.5
 5. (tie) Bruce Bess, L.H.B. 4:17.5

Florida has nothing on us, (even alligators.) Where? In our own back yard, in the sloughs north east of town.

Our local frog season opened June 1st and what reports we've been receiving! So far had to go out Monday night, with Shorty Sims and Jack Lund to see for myself. I've never seen so many and such large ones, but Shorty started telling me about the alligator he'd killed out there last summer and he'd also seen one last Saturday night laying on a log. That did it. I couldn't frog for looking for alligators. Here's Shorty's story:

"I was walking along the banks of the slough, across from the Vermont Theater and as soon as I'd spear one, I'd cut the hind legs off and throw the remains away. I kept hearing a splashing sound behind me and finally looked around just in time to see an alligator gulp the frog morsel down. I speared it and it measured 40 inches in length. Got in touch with the local game warden and his theory was that during the war they gave baby alligators away as an inducement to buy war bonds and that someone had gotten a pair and decided they weren't the right kind of house pet and had let them loose in our local slough." Sounds reasonable, or does it?

That story wasn't enough to scare me to death, but we ran right into the largest (RAT) I'd ever seen. They are called Newtrose Rats and were imported here from New Zealand, as they are vegetarians and were supposed to keep our sloughs clean. But the moss & grass weren't the kind they were used to, so they have been getting fat on the fish, frogs and crawdads and now the fish and game department is trying to get rid of them.

So fellows, if you dare venture frogging, you'll have some mighty good frog legs for dinner and some experiences you can talk about for a long time.

Anyone wishing more information on this fantastic story call Shorty Sims, 1302 W. 227th St. at FA 8-4987.

Our local fishing is tops. The white sea bass are hitting and they are big ones. The yellows come and go. Barracuda jump everywhere and the Bull Bass are thick. In fact, we've never had it so good.

Ed Glines got a nice 4-pound 2-ounce bass at Roads End Camp, along the Colorado River. The Bass, Catfishing and trout fishing is the best ever right now. Martha Campbell is still getting the big ones at Lake Crowley. A 22-inch Rainbow and a 20¼-inch Brown Trout, last weekend. She suggests you fish deep in the deep water away from the crowd.

Don't forget this Sunday the 12th of June the Compton Rod and Gun is putting on a big shoot to be held at the Dominguez Trap Range, right off 174th and Main St. It will consist of five man teams from any organization, or individual ham shoots. Torrance is entering two five-man teams. This type of shoot is called, "The Hunter's Course." The prize goes to the team that gets the most birds (clay) out of 25 trap, 25 skeet and 25 duck tower. It's fun and interesting to watch, so bring the family and root for our local boys.

Chick Hill just got a nice score of 65, last Sunday while practicing. Twenty-three trap, 23 skeet, and 19 duck tower. Good shooting Chic. Glad he's on our team.

Gomez, Wehrhan Spark South To Legion Baseball Wins

After pocketing two straight wins, South Torrance's Junior American Legion Baseball entry will shoot for two more this weekend with a pair of home games at Torrance Park.

Coach Joe Clements' nine hosts Gardena Saturday afternoon then returns Sunday to meet cross-town rival Torrance.

Last weekend it was Rick Gomez and Bob Wehrhan whose bats went wild on successive days to spark 6 to 1 and 9 to 6 triumphs over defending "Bay League" champion El Segundo and Lomita, respectively.

Gomez went 3 for 4 on Saturday as Larry Thomas and John Mewborn combined pitching forces to limit the losers to just one run, while Wehrhan

swatted four safeties in five trips including a home run and scored four runs in the Sabbath day game. He also went nine innings on the mound to receive credit for the win.

Wehrhan will probably pitch Sunday's crucial with the rival Torrance post.

Mike Andrews and Joe Austin had triples in the 9-6 win as the locals catapulted to the top of the standings as the season leaves the starting gate.

South, 6 to 1
El Segundo 000 000 100-1 8 4
South 032 010 000-6 8 1

South, 9 to 6
South 201 101 022-9 8 2
Lomita 000 220 020-6 8 9

Wehrhan and Czarke, Barry (5); Bauer, Jack (6); Bunton (8), and Kirtschmer.

Local Anglers Qualify in San Diego Derby

San Diego, June 8 In spite of the return of a persistent southeast wind, which took yellowtail catches down a peg or two last weekend, deep sea anglers made some noteworthy hauls which kept minimum weight in the second period of the \$25,000 Yellowtail Derby headed in the general direction of outer space.

Within the space of seven days, derby anglers could look back to an 18-pound starting point and a climb to 19 pounds 14 ounces and there seemed to be no cause to predict a slowdown in the steady rise of the weight requirements.

NEW QUALIFIERS this week from the Torrance sector included Wiley Pinson, Torrance, a 22-1/2 yellow, and Glen Higgins, a 20 pound, 5 ounce.

Anglers accounted for 5602 yellowtail during the week, in spite of the bad weather which caused them to drag their heels last weekend.

BLACK SEA BASS also were active during the week and no less than a dozen were boated. Largest, naturally, was the 496 pounder which gave Skipper Bobby Parsons of the Nu-Gaga a world record for 80-pound test lines. Smallest was a 126½ pounder by Jesse Hessel of Inglewood.

Stan Beard Leads EC in Three Batting Statistics

First sticker Stan Beard, voted captain and most valuable player by his teammates, vindicated his selection in the final El Camino baseball statistics by leading the club in three departments and tying for top honors in a fourth.

Ripping the horsehide at a furious .374 clip, Beard beat out regular Dan Heun, .333, and part timer Dundee Jones, .372, for the Warrior batting title.

BEARD WHO missed being named Metropolitan Conference player of the year by one vote, also knocked in 29 runs to nip Heun, who chased across 27 teammates, for the RBI crown. His 60 total bases also was the high tide mark for ECC.

Season Statistics				
Name	AB	RH	Avg.	
Beard, Stan	115	24	43	.374
Jones	43	8	16	.372
Heun	114	26	38	.333
Raia	65	15	20	.308
Pera	100	13	29	.290
Helvey	112	18	32	.286
Nyman	105	29	29	.276
Thompson	95	11	25	.252
Newton	25	3	6	.240
Shoop	38	8	8	.210
Beard, Sp.	63	4	13	.203
Adams	89	20	18	.202
James	26	3	5	.192

SETS GOAL AT ALL TIME TOP MONEY WINNING MARK

Ten-Year-Old Still Runs, Wins

In this day of large purses and around-the-calendar racing it's rarely that you see a horse of stakes calibre competing after the age of five. The high cost of stable upkeep compels owners to keep their stars in training twelve months of the year and travel them from coast to coast in order to fill stakes engagements.

Consequently after three or four seasons most horses are raced out, if not broken down, and retired to green pastures.

There is always, however, an exception to the rule and in this case it's Find, a 10-year-old gelding belonging to Alfred Gwynne Vanderbilt. This durable son of Discovery-Stellar Role is still at it, taking on younger rivals and giving a good account of himself. As recently as two weeks ago he ran a mile in 1:35 at Hollywood Park to

win an allowance event, increasing his all-time earnings to \$775,501.

At present writing Find stands ninth on the list of all-time money winners and is just \$9,739 shy of Native Dancer's mark of \$785,240. First money in a \$15,000 stake or fourth place in a \$100,000 race would put him over the mark of his more illustrious stable-mate.

Obviously, the goal that Vanderbilt is seeking with Find is the all-time money-winning mark for a gelding, now held by Calumet Farm's Armed with \$817,475. Vanderbilt, however, is not pushing the aged veteran.

Find was unraced as a two-year-old and came to the races at three. Although he won nine of his 14 starts, including the Ohio Derby, the Grey Lag and the Empire City Handicap, he had to take a back seat to his more illustrious stable-mates, Native Dancer and Social Outcast.

At four he became a road horse, travelling to California to win the San Carlos and running second in the Washington's Birthday. He was sidelined during his five-year-old season because of injuries but bounced back the following year to finish in the money in 19 of his 22 starts, including victories in the New Orleans Handicap, the Excelsior and the Narragansett Special.

Probably his best year was as a seven-year-old in which he won the Hollywood Pre-

miere, the Inglewood, the American and Sunset Handicaps. In addition he finished second in the Washington Park and was third in six other stakes for earnings that season of \$234,550.

It was during that season that Trainer Bill Winfrey remarked: "Find is as good now as he ever was. He hasn't found out that he's 7-years-old."

Although he hasn't won a stakes in the last two years Find was still good enough at eight to finish second in the San Pasqual and John B. Campbell Handicaps, and to be runnerup last year to Hillsdale in the American Handicap and Hollywood Gold Cup.

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