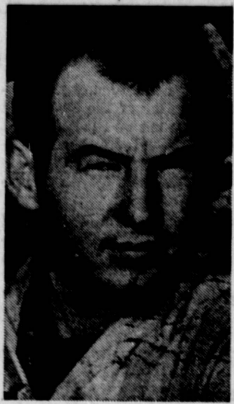


# A Tale of Torrance's Two Great Athletes



PARNELLI JONES  
Latter-Day Great

By GREGG PETERSON  
Herald Sports Editor

Two men, with only the common denominator of speed, have twice put Torrance on the athletic map in the past 30 years.

In the grim, depression days of 1934 it was a young, reformed bad boy who first hurled the then tiny town of Torrance into the sporting limelight.

Louis Zamperini, who met and defeated the world's finest milers before he was 20, setting new records in the process, was the first of Torrance's world-class athletes.

Almost 30 years later another record-breaker, another speedster, brought a now-booming city back into the headlines. Parnelli Jones did the "impossible," he broke

the 150 mile per hour mark at Indianapolis, and became this city's second great sports figure.

Zamperini was the town's bad boy before he became interested in distance running at Torrance High. The sport changed him and he changed the sport. At 17 years of age, in 1934, Zamperini set a new mile record of 4:21.2 in winning the California high school championship.

Prep competition was not enough for Louis and two years later, in 1936, he had the sports world at his feet as he tied Indiana's great Don Lash in the 5,000 meter Olympic qualifying race at Randall's Island in New York.

And then it was to Berlin, Germany, where he finished seventh in the Olympic 5,000



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meter race and was the first American to cross the finish line.

Next it was the University of Southern California and success as the greatest distance man the great Dean Cromwell had ever tutored. By 1938 the tireless Zamperini had run the mile in 4:11.6 and the 880 in 1:53.2—in the same afternoon.

But then came World War II and athletic success turned into the unpleasantness of a war hero as Louis wrote one of the war's greatest chapters of courage and fortitude.

During the War his plane was forced down in the Pacific and he spent a then record 49 days afloat. Finally he was pulled out—by the Japanese, and spent two years

in a prisoner-of-war camp before being released.

Following his two-year imprisonment, the once-bad boy became interested in helping youngsters. Today he is a main force in the Youth for Christ movement and operates a Boys' camp.

Parnelli Jones endured less hardship than Louis but his athletic story is equally spectacular. Near the tail end of the 1940's Jones became a familiar figure on local dirt racing tracks.

More than a decade later the name Parnelli was emblazoned across newspaper headlines from coast-to-coast as the Torrance speedster became the first man to exceed 150 m.p.h. around the famed Brickyard at Indianapolis.

Twice in the 1960's Jones

led the Indy before mechanical trouble forced him back into the pack. But in 1963 it was all Parnelli as he survived a controversial finish and established a new average speed mark in picking up the checkered flag.

Just this week Jones bounced back into the headlines as he tuned up for this year's Indy with a 156-plus time around the Brickyard in a practice run.

Records are made to be broken and all of Zamperini's have been snapped by today's super athletes. The records Parnelli is setting will also undoubtedly be bettered.

But the City of Torrance will not forget that these two men were its greatest athletes in a period of growth.



LOUIS ZAMPERINI  
City's First Hero

## South Cees Win Cinder Crown

### THS, West Spikers Take Second, Third

Torrance and West high schools swept into second and third place varsity finishes behind Aviation High Friday night in the Pioneer League track finals.

Hosting Aviation easily waltzed off with the team title, picking up 123 points. Torrance garnered 57½ points and West totaled 36½.

Half-miler Larry Parker and hurdler Mike Hatter were standouts for Torrance. Parker rushed around the two laps in 1:58.4 to record a personal best and beat his nearest competitor, which was teammate Steve Brown, by six seconds.

Hatter came up with a 15.8 second win in the 120 high hurdles and took a third in the 180-yard low hurdles in 21.3 seconds.

A TARTAR 880-yard relay team of Pat Lewandowski, Parker, Tom Meadows and John Grim also picked up a first place in 1:35.1.

West came up with two varsity champions and had one school record fall and one tied. Ron Pettigrew, a junior, won the mile in 4:29.3 for a school standard.

Lindy Nuzzo, a senior, cleared 6 ft. in the high jump to tie his own West record.

George Sharp nabbed a second for West in the high hur-

dles with a 21.0 effort and earned a third in the 120 high timber chase in 16.3 seconds.

Torrance's crack high jumpers, Grim and Bob Romero, finished in a tie for second place at 20 ft. 2 in. Two West weightmen, John Cochran and Scott Steele, also finished in a tie.

Cochran and Steele both flipped the shot put 49 ft. 9½ in. to garner a third-place deadlock.

TOM JURCO was instrumental in propelling West to a third-place standing in the Bee division. Jurco won the century in 10.4 seconds to tie a Warrior record and took the 660 in 1:26.8.

Bill Jones picked up a pair of fourth places for West, finishing in the money in both the high and low hurdle chases.

Pete Hernandez and Doug Kelsey were the only Tartars to score points in the running events. Hernandez took a second in the 330 in 39.2 while Kelsey finished fifth in the 220.

El Segundo walked off with the Bee title with 79 points. Lennox was second at 51 while Torrance managed 34 for fourth.

West and Torrance both



SWITCHES JOBS . . . Dave LaRoche, who regularly performs at first base for West High, will open on the mound for the Warriors Tuesday afternoon against Pioneer League-leading El Segundo. West trails the Eagles by two games and must win to remain in contention for a title tie. LaRoche has yet to be beaten in four starts. (Herald Photo)

### Pettipiece Nabs Two Dash Wins; Fox Ties Mark

Two sprint wins by Sophomore Ted Pettipiece boosted South High to a Bay League Cee division track championship Friday night at Redondo High.

Pettipiece won the century in 10.3 seconds, took the 180 in 18.0 seconds and anchored a winning 440-yard relay team as South edged past Redondo by only two points.

South totaled 43 points in the Cee division while Redondo came up with 41. A win in the final relay gave South the win.

The Spartans finished only fourth in the varsity division, but came up with two league champions and several top individual efforts. John Daugherty won the shot put with a toss of 53 ft. 2½ in. and Doug Hall took the 880 in 2:00.8.

Bob Palmer finished second in the high hurdles in 15.1 seconds and third in the 180-yard low hurdles in 19.9 seconds. Both clockings were all-time bests for Palmer.

Dave Ledford ran his finest mile of the year, touring the four laps in 4:28.1, but it netted only a second place as Mira Costa's Steve Dunlay won in 4:26.3.

Steve Boggs was a surprise fourth place finisher in the high jump as he cleared 5 ft. 10 in. and barely missed at 6 ft.

The Bee division results are subject to review by film. But, the films will not change a team victory by Palos Verdes. Wes Fox triggered South to

either a third or fourth place finish by winning the 100 in 10.1 seconds and the 660 in 1:24.3.

Fox's century time tied South's varsity record and broke the school's Bee standard. Fox now holds the varsity 100-yard mark as well as the varsity cross country record.

Dave Cronk and Tim Fitzpatrick combined for a two-three finish in the pole vault. Cronk cleared 11 ft. 6 in. while Fitzpatrick went over at 11 ft.

Santa Monica, as expected, easily walked off with the varsity championship. Dave Black paced the Vikings with a wind-blown 9.6 effort in the century.

VARSIITY EVENTS  
880—Doug Hall (1st), 2:00.8; Mile—Dave Ledford (2nd), 4:28.1; 120 High Hurdles—Bob Palmer (2nd), 15.1; 180 Low Hurdles—Palmer (3rd), 19.9; Shot put—John Daugherty (1st), 53 ft. 2½ in.; High Jump—Steve Boggs (4th), 5 ft. 10 in.; Long Jump—Bill Pollick (5th), 20 ft. 6 in.; 880 Relay—Fifth Place (Harry Leonard, Jim Culp, Hall, Palmer).

BEE EVENTS  
100—Wes Fox (1st), 10.1; 660—Fox (1st), 1:24.3; Pole Vault—Dave Cronk (2nd), 11 ft. 6 in.; Tim Fitzpatrick (3rd), 11 ft. 6 in.; 660 Relay—Third Place in 1:30.1 (Mark Fletcher, Barry Rathin, Allan Crisbring, Fox).

CEE EVENTS  
100—Ted Pettipiece (1st), 10.3; 180—Pettipiece (1st), 18.0; Rich Mitchell (4th), Jim Reed (5th), 120—Lennox Jay (1st), 3:23.2; 440—Relay—First Place in 46.5 (Reed, Joe Rutterman, Mitchell, Pettipiece).



WINNING PUT . . . South High shot putter John Daugherty, a junior, earned the Bay League weight crown Friday night with a toss of 53-ft. 2½-in. Daugherty has a previous put of 54-ft., 6-in. He will next flex his muscles in the CIF prelims Saturday at Arroyo High in El Monte. (Herald Photo)

## WITH EL SEGUNDO West in Pioneer Showdown

There will be no backing into a Pioneer League baseball title tie for West High. If the Warriors want a share of the pennant they will have to do it themselves.

Tuesday is the testing day for West as the Warriors clash with league-leading El Segundo on the Eagle diamond at 3 p.m.

West is currently two games behind the Eagles with two games possibly left in the Pioneer season. The regular season ends Tuesday, but if West wins, both the Warriors and El Segundo will play makeup games Thursday.

SHOULD WEST win Tuesday, the Warriors would meet Lawndale on Thursday while El Segundo would make up a tie ball game with Aviation.

El Segundo must lose to West and then to Aviation if West is to get a share of the circuit crown and a berth in the CIF playoffs.

Pioneer League teams have been classified "AA" for the playoffs and the CIF has determined that only one "AA" team from each league will enter the single-elimination tournament. The only time the one-team rule would not be in effect is in the case of title ties.

West and Aviation face a formidable job in derailing the young Eagles. El Segundo has won 11 games in a row, seven of them one-run decisions.

'Gundo sits atop the league with a 12-1 record while West is 10-3.

The Warriors have played anything but bad baseball in recent weeks and have won seven of their last eight starts. The only loss in the streak came against El Segundo—a one-run loss.

Max Lomas' crew has played in nine one-run league games and has won six. Two of the losses came against 'Gundo and the other loss was against Lennox. El Segundo's only circuit

defeat was at the hands of five straight decisions this year.

Much of El Segundo's success must be credited to its coach, John Stevenson, and the phenomenal work of sophomore chucker Kem Brett. Brett has yet to lose a league decision and is considered the Southland's top pitcher.

On the mound for West Tuesday will be another soph who has yet to face defeat this season, Dave LaRoche. LaRoche did not win a game as a freshman but has picked up

While El Segundo was handling Aviation a 4-3 setback Thursday afternoon, West remained in contention with a 4-3 victory over Lennox.

JOHN MARSDEN evened his league record at 3-3 as he shut off the Lancers on five hits and allowed only one earned run. Marsden struck out seven and walked only two.

LaRoche pulled the game out for West in the bottom of the seventh as he singled Marsden across the plate to break a 3-3 deadlock.

Lennox took a 1-0 lead in the opening frame, but West popped up with two of its own in the third inning when Gary Loyd singled with the bases full to force Fred Schwanbeck and Jim Barnes across.

West's other run came in the sixth inning when Dennis Dodd squeezed Roy Hubecek home from third base.

Before Thursday's game even started West found itself handicapped. Versatile Paul Gadbois, a sophomore third baseman, split a finger on his throwing hand in what Lomas described as a "one in a million accident."

### Young Runners Snap Two Optimist Marks

Two records toppled and Torrance Elementary School walked off with teams honors recently at the 15th annual Optimist Elementary Track and Field meet at Torrance High.

Twenty seven elementary schools battled for top honors with Torrance Elementary gaining 16 points to edge Riviera, which garnered 13. Carr and Carl Steele elementary schools tied for third place with 12 points each.

David Boyd of Steele set a new record in the 70-yard hurdles, stopping the clocks in 9.5 seconds to break the old mark of 9.9 set by Joel Hons of Steele in 1963.

The old new record came in the 100-yard dash where Sparky Hubert of Carr Elementary snapped a standard held jointly by Chuck Carpenter of Crenshaw (1960) and Don Tippie of Nativity (1962).

Hubert ran the century in 10.9 seconds to erase the old mark of 11.3 seconds.



THE BEST HALF . . . Torrance High senior Larry Parker turned in the fastest 880 of his life Friday night to handily win the Pioneer League varsity championship at Aviation High. Parker toured the two laps in 1:58.4 to beat his nearest competitor by six seconds. It was the first time Parker had gotten under two minutes. (Herald Photo)