

# Zamperini Suspended

**Star Miler Dropped  
From Trojan Team  
for Failure to Run**

**BY BRAVEN DYER**

Louis Zamperini, greatest distance runner in Pacific Coast history, was yesterday dropped from the University of Southern California track and field team.

The action came as a result of Friday night's fiasco at the Compton Invitational Meet. Billed for weeks to run against Don Lash of Indiana in the 1500 meter feature, Zamperini not only failed to appear but was accused by Herschel Smith, director of the program, of asking \$200 expense money before he would compete.

## **FAILS TO CO-OPERATE**

The following statement was issued yesterday by Dean Cromwell, coach of the Trojan track squad:

"Louis Zamperini has been dropped from the U.S.C. track team. I consider this action necessary because of his failure to co-operate as a member of the squad."

## **DENIES ACCUSATION**

Zamperini himself was still in hiding yesterday. Efforts of newspapermen to locate him were unsuccessful although friends said he was desirous of telling his side of the story.

Located at the Zamperini family residence in Torrance last

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night, Pete Zamperini, elder brother of Louis and a crack distance runner in his own right at U.S.C. several years ago, said "My brother is preparing a statement which will be given to the press either tomorrow or Monday." He added that the missing miler was remaining in Los Angeles for the night with friends.

"Zamperini decided that he had asked for \$200, as Smith states," said Hunter. "Louis told Coach Cronwell and me that he wished to talk to newspapermen personally and said he would be back to do this."

All day long newspapermen were vainly seeking the runner, both at his home and on the campus. He made no effort to carry out his announced intention to talk.

Both Hunter and Cronwell stated that Zamperini's suspension was a disciplinary measure because of his failure to compete and was not taken because of Smith's accusation.

#### GOING TO I.C.A.A. MEET

At the same time that Cronwell, Hunter and Dr. Hugh Willett, Trojan faculty athletic representative who is president of the Pacific Coast Conference, were in a huddle with sports writers yesterday it was announced that the Trojan squad, minus Zamperini, will compete in the I.C.A.A. championships at New York June 3 and 4.

Following is the statement by Willett relative to Troy's participation in this event:

"Arrangements have been made with the University Scholarship Committee for certain members of the track team to take their final examinations a few days ahead of the regular examination schedule. This makes it possible for the University to be represented in the I.C.A.A.A. track meet to be held in New York on June 3 and 4. Announcement of the men selected for the trip will be made at a later date by the Director of Athletics."

#### SEEKING SMITH

During the afternoon friends of Zamperini, accompanied by his brother Pete, a former Trojan runner, were said to be in Compton with an attorney. They were seeking Smith, it was said, in an effort to get him to retract his statement that Zamperini had demanded \$200 expense money before competing.

Smith reported late yesterday afternoon that he had neither seen nor heard from Zamperini since Friday.

Cronwell declared yesterday that he talked to Zamperini at 5:30 Friday afternoon and that the runner then shook hands with him and stated that he would run at Compton.

"I think someone then gave Louis some bad advice," said Cronwell. "I knew he did not feel like running, but he never told me he wouldn't compete."

At 8:15 Friday evening Zamperini called Willett and the Trojan official advised him to run.

#### LASH GOT \$235.52

Lash received \$235.52 expense money. Of this amount, \$207.50 was for plane fare from Indianapolis and return. The rest was below the customary A.A.U. expense voucher.

From the standpoint of the A.A.U., Zamperini probably faces no disciplinary measure. He did not sign an entry blank for the meet and he did not receive the money Smith says he demanded. In the eyes of the A.A.U. Zamperini's failure to sign an entry blank may leave him blameless for not competing.

As far as the Trojan authorities are concerned, however, the team was entered as a full squad, the meet having been sanctioned by S.C. authorities. Zamperini wasn't the only athlete who did not sign an entry blank.

Yesterday's suspension means that Zamperini is lost to the Trojans for several important meets. Next on schedule is the Pacific Coast Conference championship at Berkeley this weekend, followed by the I.C.A.A. meet, the N.C.A.A. and the Coast-Big Ten affair.