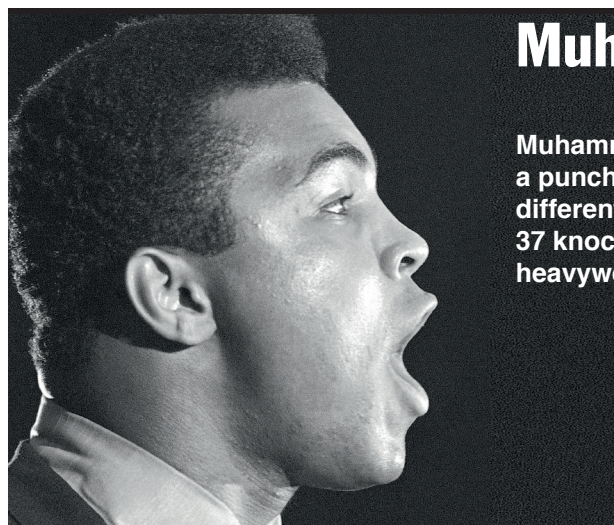


Muhammad Ali 1942-2016

Muhammad Ali captured the world with big talk and a punch to back it up. Ali dominated boxing in three different decades – with a record of 56 wins, five losses, 37 knockouts – and was the first man to win world heavyweight boxing champion titles three times



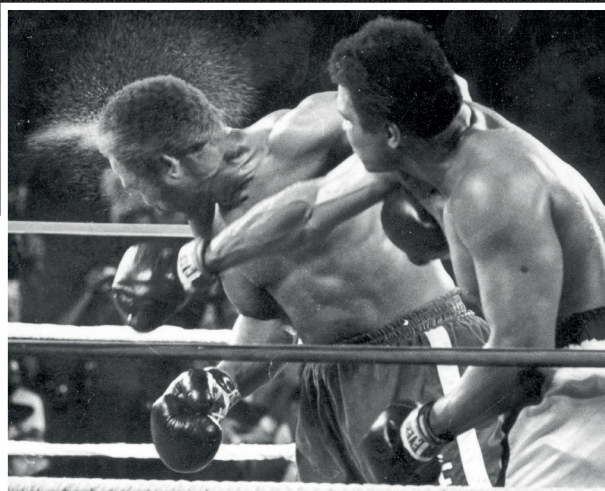
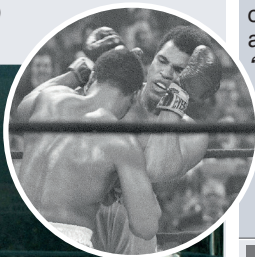
■ **January 17, 1942:** Born **Cassius Marcellus Clay** in Louisville, Kentucky

■ **1960:** Olympic light-heavyweight champion, turns professional

■ **1964:** Wins world heavyweight championship after holder **Sonny Liston** fails to come out for seventh round. Joins Black Muslims, changes name to **Muhammad Ali**. Marries first wife, model **Sonji Roi**

■ **1970:** Licence restored after Supreme Court overturns conviction, returns to ring with three-round demolition of **Jerry Quarry**

■ **1971:** Ali and new world champion **Joe Frazier** meet at Madison Square Garden in one of the greatest heavyweight fights of all time. Frazier wins on points (inset)



■ **Oct 30, 1974:** Regains heavyweight title in Zaire with extraordinary display of courage and endurance against Foreman in “**the rumble in the jungle**”. Ali lounges on the ropes, letting Foreman punch himself into exhaustion and scores an eighth-round knockout (above)

■ **1980:** Clearly past his prime, he is battered to 11th-round knockout by **Larry Holmes**

■ **1981:** Increasingly desperate pleas to quit are again ignored as Ali enters ring for final time on verge of 40th birthday. Loses 10-round decision against **Trevor Berbick**

■ **Oct 1, 1975:** Decisive meeting between Ali and Frazier ends when Frazier fails to come out for final round of gruelling “**thriller in Manila**”. Analysts calculate that Frazier lands 440 punches – “**I hit him punches that would bring cities down**”, Frazier says

■ **1982:** Diagnosed with Parkinson's Syndrome. Speech becomes slurred, movements slow and uncertain. Retires to Michigan farm with fourth wife **Lonnie** and his nine children. Founds charity WORLD (World Organisation for Right, Liberty and Dignity)



■ **1965:** Retains title by knocking out Liston with controversial “**phantom punch**” (above)

■ **1967:** Refuses to be inducted into U.S. Army, claiming “**I ain't got no quarrel with them Vietcong. No Vietcong ever called me nigger.**” Sentenced to five years in prison and fined \$100,000. Ali is saved from jail on appeal, but stripped of title, his boxing licence is revoked and passport impounded. Ali marries **Belinda Boyd**

■ **Jan 28, 1974:** Ali wins unanimous 12-round points decision in return against Frazier – who had lost title to **George Foreman** – in richest non-title fight in history. “**This may shock and amaze ya, but I will destroy Joe Frazee-yah,**” Ali boasts before the fight

■ **Mar 24, 1974:** Ali defeats **Chuck Wepner**. Wepner's courageous performance inspires **Sylvester Stallone** to make movie “**Rocky**”

■ **1977:** Shows first signs of illness but refuses to heed growing clamour to quit. Ali marries model **Veronica Porch**

■ **Feb 1978:** Grossly overweight and out of condition, he loses title to **Leon Spinks** on split decision

■ **Aug:** Ali wins 15-round decision over Spinks. Becomes first man to win heavyweight championship three times

■ **1985:** Tries to secure release of four kidnapped Americans in Lebanon

■ **1996:** Olympic committee asks him to light Olympic flame at **Atlanta** games

■ **2000:** Ali is awarded **Presidential Medal of Freedom** – America's highest civilian honour

■ **Jun 4, 2016:** Boxing legend **Muhammad Ali** dies aged 74 after suffering from respiratory illness