
The Best (Pure) Middleweight Boxers of All-Time



Sugar Ray Robinson



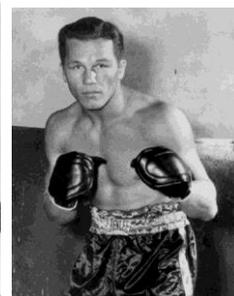
Marvelous Marvin Hagler



Bernard Hopkins



Jake LaMotta



Tony Zale

1) **Sugar Ray Robinson –**

Born Walker Smith, Jr., Sugar Ray Robinson is considered by many to be, pound for pound, the greatest fighter of all time. Ostensibly orthodox in style, Robinson's crushing left hook was his money punch and helped propel him to titles in the both the welterweight and middleweight divisions. His career resume includes **202** fights, with **175** wins (108 by KO), **19** losses, **6** draws and **2** no contests. *The Not So Sweet Science:* Robinson's reputation was in question after his 1947 bout with Jimmy Doyle in which the challenger died a few hours after the fight was called (Doyle) due to a savage beating. News broke quickly that Doyle was only fighting to help buy his elderly Mother a retirement home. As the story goes, Robinson donated proceeds from his purse to help make that sentiment a reality. The much maligned champ lost his middleweight crown in 1957 by losing to Carmen Basilio.

Robinson retired in 1965 having set the standard by which all pure middleweights would be judged in the future.

Top Fights: Vs. Carmen Basilio, Paul Pender, Gene Fullmer, Bobo Olson, Joey Maxim.

2) **Marvelous Marvin Hagler -**

Marvin Hagler dominated the middleweight boxing division in the 1980's with a **62-3-2** record. Early in his career, Hagler found the competition evading him due to his reputation as a *punishing southpaw* that wouldn't quit. Many managers would not allow their ascending boxers to enter into any contractual agreement with Hagler for fear of being badly beaten. This prompted former heavyweight champion **Joe Frazier** to remark, "*You have (3) strikes against you – You're black; you're a southpaw and you're really good.*" Hagler's most notable fight was with **Sugar Ray Leonard**. This drag-em-out, barroom brawl ended with Hagler losing a split decision after (15) rounds.

Tough losses to: *Sugar Ray Leonard, Bobby Watts, Willie Monroe. Biggest wins: Roberto Duran, Thomas "Hitman" Hearns, Roy Jones, Sr., Sugar Ray Seales, Vito Antuofermo, Alan Minter.*



Carlos Monzon



Roberto Duran



Gene Fullmer



Stanley Ketchel



Carmen Basilio

Pictured (L to R)

3)

Bernard Hopkins -

Although Bernard (The Executioner) Hopkins fought above the middleweight division for part of his career, he is best remembered for his complete annihilation of challengers in the (160) lb. range during the 1990's and early 2000's. A native of Philadelphia, Hopkins was already in trouble with the law as a teen, which landed him in prison. It was here that the gangly youth honed his boxing skills. He won the vacated middleweight title in 1995 vs. Segundo Mercado. This is a title that he would successfully defend (20) times. His victory over *Oscar De La Hoya* in 2005 cemented him as the 1st boxer to simultaneously hold world titles that were recognized by all (4) sanctioning bodies (until broken in 2018). He lost his middleweight crown in 2005 to *Jermain Taylor* and subsequently moved up to the light-heavyweight division. **Longevity:** Hopkins fought well into his late 40's and was considered to be a master defensive tactician and counterpuncher. His resume spans the years 1988 – 2016. **Big Bout:** Defeated Felix Trinidad in 2001 to retain the IBF & WBC middleweight crown. **Record: 55-8-2** with (2) no contests.

4)

Jake LaMotta

A boxer of impeccable talent, Jake LaMotta is best remembered in pugilistic circles as the man *having one of the greatest chins* in boxing history. LaMotta could take a beating for several rounds (taking it on the chin) and appear to be on the verge of collapsing, when all of a sudden he would regain a second wind and starting tearing into his opponent with a ferocity that often resulted in a KO. LaMotta's record of **83-19-4 (30 wins by KO)** is highlighted with having the consummate distinction of handing *Sugar Ray Robinson* his 1st career loss. LaMotta won the middleweight title in 1949 with a victory over incumbent Marcel Cerdan.

5)

Tony Zale

Tony Zale (The Man of Steel) was a punishing brawler that hailed from the steel mill town of Gary, Indiana. Born **Anthony Zaleski**, he recorded a career mark of **67-18-2 (45 wins by KO)**. Zale had the reputation of being able to withstand a tremendous beating, hold his ground and rally late in the fight with a relentless persistence to knock out his opponent. He held the middleweight title multiple times. He is best remembered for his classic bouts with Rocky Graziano. They fought (3) times with Zale emerging victorious twice. Zale's decline was imminent in the Late 1940's with a loss to Marcel Cerdan. The 1957 movie *Somebody Up There Likes Me* (starring Paul Newman as Rocky Graziano) originally had Zale playing himself but was replaced by actor Courtland Shepard as the director felt that Zale might actually hurt Paul Newman in the ring scenes. He really was a Man of Steel.

6)

Carlos Monzon

An immensely popular fighter from Argentina, Monzon reigned as the undisputed middleweight champion for (7) years and successfully defended his title (14) times. His career mark of **87-3-9 (59 KO's)** is considered legendary by many sweet science enthusiasts. He is the only man to beat the legendary Emile Griffith twice. Monzon won the World Middleweight championship (WBA, WBC and lineal middleweight titles) by beating Italian incumbent Nino Benvenuti in (12) rounds. A rematch one year later yielded the same results with the Argentine Assassin scoring a 3rd round TKO over the imperiled Italian. Perhaps his greatest moments in the ring were against Columbian champion Rodrigo Valdez. They fought twice with Monzon winning both. A darker side of Monzon had emerged some years back, with incidents of domestic violence and trouble with the paparazzi resulting in several run-ins with the law. In 1989 he was convicted of killing his wife and subsequently receiving an (11) year prison sentence. Monzon was killed in a 1995 car crash while on furlough from the prison.

7)

Roberto Duran

Roberto Duran owns the distinction of being only the 2nd – Jack Johnson was the 1st - boxer to lace up the gloves in (5) different decades (1968 – 2001). This Panamanian hurricane racked up championships in (4) separate weight classes including : *lightweight, welterweight, light-middleweight and middleweight* divisions. Duran fought in (119) bouts and sports a jaw-dropping 103 – 16 record which includes (70) KO's. **Epic battle:** Duran's most memorable fights came against Sugar Ray Leonard. They fought (3) times with Leonard winning (2) out of (3). Duran fought Marvin Hagler in 1983 for the middleweight title but was rebuffed. He won the middleweight crown in 1989.

8)

Gene Fullmer

When I think of boxing hot-beds, cities like *New York, LA, Detroit, Philadelphia and Chicago* first come to mind. It seems so out of character that one of the all-time middleweight boxing greats hails from the state of Utah. Gene Fullmer claimed the middleweight championship in 1957 by besting the heavily favored Sugar Ray Robinson. The compact Ute with the blinding jab racked up an impressive **55-6-3** record in (64) total fights. **Arch Nemesis:** Fullmer lost to Dick Tiger twice. In 1959 he beat Carmen Basilio to win the vacated middleweight crown.

9)

Stanley Ketchel

The son of Polish immigrants, Stanley Ketchel (Stanislaw Kiecal at birth), known as *The Michigan Assassin*, beat some of the biggest and best in boxing annals in a career sadly shortened by his murder in 1910. Ketchel had a stellar career record of **51-4-4** which includes wins over *Billy Papke* (they fought 4 times with Ketchel winning three of those), *Philadelphia Jack O'Brien, Joe Thomas, Mike "The Twin" Sullivan and Hugo Kelley*. Ketchel even battled former heavyweight champion Jack Johnson (Loss). In a scenario eerily similar to the 1946 movie *The Postman Always Rings Twice* (starring Lana Turner and John Garfield), Ketchel was shot by a disgruntled ranch hand and his female accomplice near Conway, Missouri, thus prompting the inevitable question **What might have been?**

10)

Carmen Basilio

Carmen Basilio has the distinction of having held both the welterweight & middleweight championship crowns during his illustrious career. A peppery fighter with unlimited energy, Basilio often wore down his opponents with his aggressive, hard-hitting style. He won the 1st of (2) welterweight titles by subduing Tony DeMarco in 1955. He lost his crown to Johnny Saxton but regained it a 2nd time with a rematch in 1956. But perhaps his greatest claim to fame was his (15) round, split-decision victory over an ageing Sugar Ray Robinson at Yankee Stadium. Robinson beat him in a 2nd fight but Basilio had secured his place among the pantheon of greats with his Sept. 23, 1957 win in the Bronx.

11)

Emile Griffith

(24) losses. That's a lot of losses based on a (112) fight total but Emile Griffith scored (85) wins with (23) of them coming via the KO. So, Griffith makes our list – not so much as an invincible fighter – but as a smart, hard-hitting pugilist (with a superior skill set) who exploited the shortcomings of his opponents in a deep field of worthy challengers. **Tale of the Tape** – Griffith won the welterweight championship in 1961 and captured the coveted middleweight crown in 1966 by beating Dick Tiger. **Benny Paret Tragedy** – A 1962 bout between Benny Paret and Griffith ended in tragedy when a 12 round battering from Griffith resulted in Paret being carried from the ring on a stretcher and never regaining consciousness. Paret died (10) days later in the hospital.

12)

Harry Greb

Harry Greb (aka: The Pittsburgh Windmill) is the only man to ever defeat Gene Tunney in a light heavyweight title fight but spent the majority of career in the middleweight division. He fought (37) times in 1917 which is a record. Not blessed with knock-out power, Greb was known for his fast, swarthy style that wore down his opponents over the course of a bout. In 1921 he suffered a retinal tear in his right eye that eventually led to blindness. He was fitted with a prosthetic eye and was able to resume his career. Greb was the middleweight champion from 1923 through 1926. The Pittsburgh Windmill retired with (105) wins and was credited with fighting the best of the talent-laden 1910's and 1920's – including many African Americans who many ducked at the advice of their managers.

13)

Bobo Olson

The product of a Portuguese Mother and a Swedish Father, Bobo Olson was born in Hawaii in 1928. Most of his early fights were in his native Aloha State. Even at an early age he displayed a lethal combination of power and stamina that would serve him well throughout his career – despite having only an average skill set. Olson’s 1st big challenge was for the *Pennsylvania Middleweight Title* against the legendary Sugar Ray Robinson in 1950 but was rebuffed with a 12th round KO. He tried again in 1952 to unseat Sugar Ray (the lineal middleweight champion) but was once again denied being on the short end of a (15) round unanimous decision. Olson finally won the middleweight crown in 1953 by beating Paddy Young in (15) rounds at MSG. He successfully defended his crown later that year by defeating Randy Turpin. Olson held the middleweight crown from 1953 through 1955. He finished with a **97-16-2 record**.

14) Tie – Charlie Burley & Dick Tiger

Charlie Burley hailed from the Pittsburgh, Pa. and was known as the boxer who no one wanted to fight, including luminaries like: Billy Conn, Marcel Cerdan and even Sugar Ray Robinson. Burley was never given the opportunity to fight for the WBA & WBC titles due to the influence of *Jim Crow* ambiguity early in his career. Many long time, knowledgeable boxing trainers and insiders referred to him *as one of the hardest hitters and best boxers ever*. Dick Tiger was born in Nigeria and emigrated 1st to the UK to begin his boxing career and later made his way to the USA where he won both the middleweight and *light heavyweight* titles. He won the middleweight crown in 1962 by besting Gene Fullmer and topped Jose Torres for the light – heavyweight title. Tiger is perhaps best remembered for his classic battles with Joey Giardello. They fought (4) times and split their results – (2) each. **Career Record: 60-19-3**.

15) Tie – Joey Giardello & Freddie Steele

The Brooklyn, NY native – later emigrated to Philadelphia – beat Dick Tiger in 1963 to capture the coveted middleweight crown. Giardello had 1st drawn attention to his cause by upsetting Sugar Ray Robinson in 1963. In 1964 Giardello soundly defeated Rubin “Hurricane” Carter to defend his crown but was inaccurately portrayed in the 1999 movie *Hurricane* as *benefitting from a corrupt and racially motivated decision*. Giardello sued and won an undisclosed cash settlement as a result. He finished with a **101-25-7 record**. **Freddie Steele (The Tacoma Assassin)** was the NBA (National Boxing Association) middleweight champion between 1936 – 1938. He won the middleweight crown in 1936 by beating Babe Risko. Steele successfully defended his title 3x but was finally defeated by Al Hostak on July 26, 1938. Life after boxing had Steele appearing in some (30) Hollywood movies including: *I Walk Alone; Hail the Conquering Hero and The Story of GI Joe*. Ring record: **125 – 5 – 1**.

Honorable Mention: Rocky Graziano, Billy Papke, Tiger Flowers, Vito Antuofermo, Alan Minter, Marcel Cerdan, Nino Benvenuti, Paddy Young, Mickey Walker. **PLEASE NOTE:** Sugar Ray Leonard and Thomas “Hitman” Hearns made viable contributions to the middleweight legacy, however they fought much of their careers outside of the (160) lb. MW realm.



Emile Griffith



Harry Greb



Bobo Olson



Charlie Burley



Dick Tiger



Joey Giardello



Freddie Steele

Items For Sale

1961 Ingemar Johansson vs. Floyd Patterson World Heavyweight Championship Program - Autographed

This was the 3rd – they split the 1st two bouts – in a series of heavyweight championship bouts between Johansson & Patterson. March 13th, 1961 at the Miami Beach Convention Center. Program is full and complete. No cut-outs or missing pages. Center scoring page is firmly attached to staples. Interior pages are clean, clear and crisp. No moisture or residual spotting. Tight spine *with a little separation* at bottom. Program has *personalized autographs of Johansson & Patterson* on front cover. Excellent condition) **\$ 49.99 + \$ 4.99 S&H**

1935 Joe Louis Knocks Out Primo Carnera (NY Daily Mirror) Display Partial Paper

1935 Joe Louis KO's Primo Carnera NY Daily Mirror partial newspaper with large 2 ¼" to 2 ½" headlines that read: **Louis By K.O.** Wednesday June 26, 1935. (8) pages only – not a full paper. The front cover has a large photo of the Brown Bomber along with a complete wrap. There is a horizontal tear that runs downward from the **U in Louis to the feature story.** Paper is suitable for framing. Good) **\$ 14.99 + \$ 3.99 S&H**

1982 Ray "Boom Boom" Mancini vs. Ernesto Espana WBA (Lightweight Title) Championship Fight Ticket

1982 Ray *Boom Boom* Mancini vs. Ernesto Espana WBA lightweight championship fight ticket. Dated: July 24, 1982. Mancini retained his lightweight title with a 6th round TKO at Mollenkopf Stadium in Warren, Ohio. Has a small pinhole in center. Ex) **\$ 7.99 + .99 cents S&H**

1951 – 1982 Boxing Lot of (3) Items

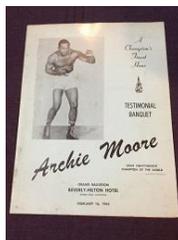
Lot of (3) Boxing Items from 1951 through 1982: (1) 1951 Amateur Boxing Program From the Utica, NY area. (Fighters – Tommy Rotolo and Billy Pinti) - pictured on front. The program is all advertisements inside. (1) 1982 Larry Holmes vs. Gerry Cooney CCTV Heavyweight Championship Fight Ticket (Closed Circuit TV ticket for the Holmes vs. Cooney Heavyweight Championship fight at Caesars Boardwalk Palace in AC, NJ. Partial stub. Vg); (1) 1982 Professional Boxing at Plainfield HS in Plainfield, NJ on Sept. 16, 1982. Ex) **\$ 9.99 + \$ 1.99 S&H**

1962 Archie Moore Testimonial Dinner Program

1962 Archie Moore Testimonial Dinner Program (Feb. 16, 1962 at The Beverly Hilton Hotel – Beverly Hills, Cal. (6) pages with a short history on the Light Heavyweight Champion. Some soiling on covers but overall nice) **\$ 20.00 + \$ 4.99 S&H**

Willie Pep, Gene Fullmer & Emile Griffith Autographed Display Piece

Awesome Willie Pep, Gene Fullmer & Emile Griffith Autographed Display Piece (Framed and matted display piece with generic cards of (3) all-time greats that are autographed. The Pep autograph is done in pen; the Fullmer and Griffith autographs are done in sharpie. Incredible display potential) **\$ 39.99 + \$ 7.99 S&H**



1907 Brooklyn Dodgers Program vs. NY Giants Official Program at Washington Park

1907 Brooklyn Dodgers Program ('07's are exceedingly hard to find – in any condition. (12) pages. Not scored. Has some mild soiling inside. Borders show some age-related flaking. There are light to moderate creases in a few spots. Full and complete. Overall a fine specimen, age-associated wear notwithstanding. Good/Vg)

\$ 499. 99 + FREE S&H



Walter Johnson (HOF) Original Printer's Plate With Reverse Image Signature

Walter Johnson (HOF) Printer's Plate with reverse image signature (Depicts the Big Train winding up and readying the batter for another dose of his heat. Unidentified player in background. Plate is original and heavy. Back of plate is Iron Oxide red. The facsimile signature is in reverse. Sensational Walter Johnson piece) **\$ 24. 99 + \$ 9.99 S&H**

1940 Don Budge vs. Fred Perry – National Pro Tennis Championships – Ticket Stub

1940 Don Budge vs. Fred Perry National Pro Tennis Championships ticket stub (Sunday Sept. 22, 1940. Budge beat Perry: 6-3, 5-7, 6-4, 6-3 to capture the championship. **Venue:** Chicago Town and Tennis Club. **Surface:** Clay

\$ 19. 99 + .99 cents S&H

1960 LA Dodgers (from the LA Coliseum) Ticket Stub

1960 LA Dodgers – LA Coliseum – Ticket Stub (Pre Dodger Stadium ticket stub. This is from the era of Wally Moon shots over the short porch. **Date:** July 5, 1960 **vs.** SF Giants **WP** – Johnny Podres **LP** – Mike McCormick **Final Score:** 8-0 **Key Contributors:** LA's Charlie Neal paced the winners by going 3 for 4)

\$ 2. 99 + .99 cents S&H

St. Louis Browns (MLB) Index Card Autographs

- Al Widmar (St. Louis Browns authentic autograph. Very clean. 1948 (St. Louis) and 1950-51 (St. Louis) **\$ 4.99**
- Bob Savage (St. Louis Browns authentic autograph. Reads: **Best Wishes Bob Savage.** 1949 (St. Louis) **\$ 4. 99**
- Dee Sanders (St. Louis Browns authentic autograph. Very clean. 1945 (St. Louis) **\$ 4. 99**
- Bob Dillinger (St. Louis Browns authentic autograph. Very clean. 1946 – 1949 (St. Louis Browns) **\$ 4. 99**
- Owen Friend (St. Louis Browns authentic autograph. Very clean. 1949 – 50 (St. Louis Browns) **\$ 4. 99**
- George Binks (St. Louis Browns authentic autograph. Very clean. **George "Bingo" Binks.** 1948 (SLB) **\$ 4. 99**

FREE S&H on St. Louis Browns Autographs

1948 MLB All-Star Game Official Program at St. Louis

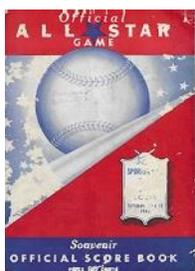
1948 MLB All-Star Game Official Program at St. Louis (July 13, 1948 at Sportsman Park in St. Louis. Full and complete. Not scored. Interior pages are nice. Front cover exhibits moderate scuffing. Spine is tight. Staples show some rusting (oxidation). Good/Vg condition) **\$ 49.99 + FREE S&H**

1960 Jim Landis (Chicago White Sox) MacGregor TSN Full Page Display Ad

1960 Jim Landis (Chicago White Sox) MacGregor Glove Full Page Display Ad (This is a back cover, full page ad from the May 18, 1960 edition of The Sporting News. **ADDED BONUS:** This edition of the Sporting News also contains a ½ page ad, inside, featuring Mickey Mantle hawking Rawlings Baseball Gloves. This is a full, complete edition of The Sporting News. There are multiple tears on spine) **\$ 7.99 + \$ 4.99 S&H**

1959 Baltimore News Post Partial Paper – Baltimore Colts Win Championship

1959 Baltimore News Post partial paper – Colts Win Championship (Baltimore Colts win NFL Championship – Dec. 28, 1959. – partial paper. **“We Never Quit Trying.”** Exclusive Account written by Johnny Sample for the Baltimore News Post. (12) pages but not all are devoted to the NFL Championship Game. Ex) **\$ 9.99 + \$ 4.99 S&H**



2018 Mike Trout (LA Angels) Topps Empty Display Box Tower

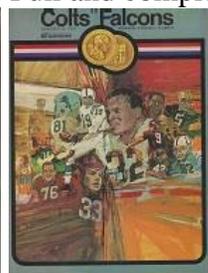
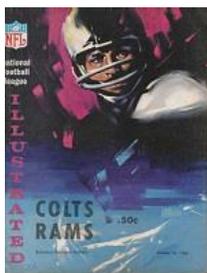
2018 Mike Trout (LA Angels) Topps Empty Display Box Tower (Baseball's best player is featured on this 2018 Series #1 empty display box tower. Great eye appeal. Great display potential. Near Mint) **\$ 9.99 + \$ 7.99 S&H**

NFL Programs

1965 Baltimore Colts vs. LA Rams NFL program (Game played at Baltimore Memorial Stadium. Oct. 24, 1965. Program is missing center pages: 43 – 46) **\$ 4.99 + \$ 4.99 S&H**

1965 NY Giants vs. St. Louis Cardinals NFL program (Game played at Yankee Stadium on Oct. 31, 1965. Full and complete. The inside contents of program have come loose from covers. Big tear on spine) **\$ 7.99 + \$ 4.99 S&H**

1969 Baltimore Colts vs. Atlanta Falcons NFL program (Game played at Baltimore Memorial Stadium on Nov. 30, 1969. Full and complete. Ex) **\$ 9.99 + \$ 4.99 S&H**



1960's St. Louis Cardinals Large Size Pennant

1960's St. Louis Cardinals Large Size Pennant (Redbird logo holding a bat. Approx. 12" x 30"m Tip end is complete. No tassels. Beautiful design and graphics. Ex) **\$ 29.99 + \$ 4.99 S&H**



Paul Derringer (Cincinnati Reds) Large Size Glass Negative Photo

Paul Derringer (Cincinnati Reds) Large Size Glass Negative Photo (Shows Derringer on mound during Spring Training (Palm Trees in background) in wind-up stretch. Measures approx. 10 3/4" x 14" Suitable for framing. Ex) **\$ 10.00 + \$ 4.99 S&H**

C. 1920 MLB Rotogravure Display Piece – Featuring Stars of the Day – Framed

C. 1920 MLB Rotogravure Display Piece (Features Stars of the Day including: George Sisler, Carl Mays, Jake Daubert, Max Carey, Bullet Joe Bush, Kenny Williams, Pat Duncan and George Murray. Piece is housed in a simulated (actually metal) wood frame. Has a shoelace hanger on back) **\$ 19.99 + \$ 11.99 S&H**

1967 Boston Celtics (NBA) Program vs Cincinnati Royals

1967 Boston Celtics (NBA) Program vs. Cincinnati Royals (Nov. 17, 1967 at The Boston Garden. Full and complete. Not scored. The center roster/scoring page has come loose from the staples but is present. Ex) **\$ 10.00 + \$ 4.99 S&H**

1950's – 1980's MLB Memorabilia Lot

1950's – 1980's MLB Memorabilia Lot (Includes: (1) 1950 *The Sporting News Dope Book* (1) 1951 *75th Anniversary of the National League Hardcover*; (1) 1953 *Guckenheimer Sports Almanac* (Multi-sports guide including baseball); (1) 1950's *Ted Kluszewski + Luke Sewell Coloroto display page*; (1) 1964 *Al Kaline Wilson Glove Full Page display ad*; . (1) 1948 *Philadelphia Phillies Color Team Insert Photo* (Probably done sometime in the 1980's Creases in upper right corner); (1) 1961 – 1985 *California Angels 25th Anniversary with Don Baylor Straw Hat Pizza display page*. All items show light wear. Most grade in the Vg/Ex range) **\$ 19.99 + \$ 10.00 S&H**

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