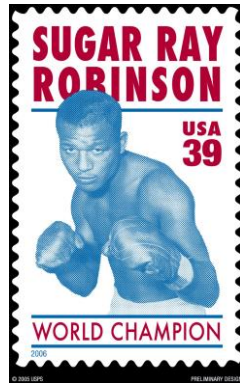


Sugar Ray Robinson – American Sports Personalities

Scott #4020 – Stamp designed by Carl T. Herrman

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Although this charismatic boxer was born Walker Smith Jr., he is best remembered as "Sugar" Ray Robinson. Born on May 3, 1921 in Ailey, Georgia, his parents moved the family to New York when Sugar Ray was a teenager to escape the prevalent prejudice in the South. It was there, in a Harlem gym, that he was first introduced to boxing. Sugar Ray visited the gym frequently, using a borrowed Amateur Athletic Union boxing card of a friend. The friend's name, incidentally, was Ray Robinson.

His natural talent in the ring began to draw attention, and soon crowds gathered to watch Sugar Ray perform. When future coach George Gainford watched him box for the first time, Gainford commented that the young boxer's style and fluid motions were "sweet as sugar." Others agreed, and the nickname stuck. After winning the New York Golden Gloves championship in 1940, 19-year-old Sugar Ray turned pro and never looked back. By 1946, Sugar Ray was the world welterweight champion. His reign included a 91 fight winning-streak. He held the title for five years, and then moved onto acquiring the world middleweight title, which he held five times between 1951-1960. A dominant force in the boxing ring for two decades, Sugar Ray was 38 when he won his last middleweight title.

In the mid-1960s, Sugar Ray exited the ring gracefully. "No beefs, George," he told his coach. "Sometimes we got the best of it in the past."

Sugar Ray's record was 128-1-2 with 84 knockouts at the pinnacle of his career. Amazingly, in over 200 fights, Sugar Ray was never physically knocked out (though he did receive one technical KO). Altogether, he amassed 109 KOs, and finished with a record of 175-19-6 with two no-decisions. World champion Muhammad Ali called him "the king, the master, my idol." In 1997, The Ring magazine named Sugar Ray "pound for pound, the best boxer of all time." More recently, in 1999, the Associated Press named him both the greatest welterweight and middleweight boxer of the century.

Achievements:

- In 1939, Sugar Ray won the Daily News Golden Gloves Featherweight championship.
- While still an amateur, he had 69 knockouts in 89 registered fights. Sugar Ray was undefeated in 125 fights, both registered and unregistered.
- He turned professional in October of 1940.
- His winning streak of 40 professional and 125 amateur fights was ended on February 5, 1943 by Jacob LaMotta.
- He became the welterweight champion on December 20, 1946 by defeating Tommy Bell. He held the title for five consecutive years from 1946 until 1951.
- Sugar Ray retired in December 1965 at the age of 44 after 25 years in the ring.
- He was a five-time middleweight champ between the years of 1951 and 1960.
- In total, Sugar Ray lost 19 fights out of 201.
- His record was 174 wins, 19 losses, and 6 undecided.

Source:

<http://www.cmgww.com/sports/robinson/about/bio.html>

<http://www.biography.com/people/sugar-ray-robinson-9461060>

<http://www.ibhof.com/pages/about/inductees/modern/robinson.html>

http://www.encyclopedia.com/topic/Sugar_Ray_Robinson.aspx