

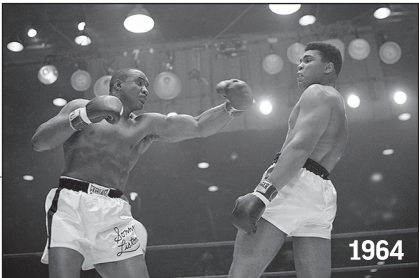
The greatest of 'The Greatest'

Boxing legend Muhammad Ali was the first man to win the world heavyweight championship three times. He redefined the sport with his blend of power, grace and quickness.

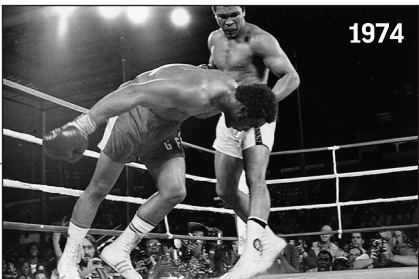
Professional record: 56 wins, 5 losses

- Lost world heavyweight title fight
- Won world heavyweight title
- Successful title defense

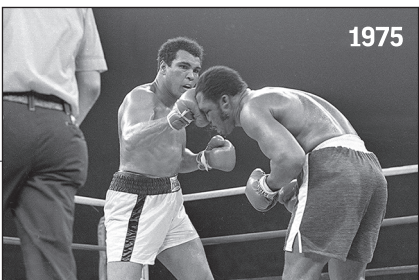
| Losses | Year | Wins |
|----------------|------|---|
| | 1960 | ○ ○ |
| | 1961 | ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ |
| | 1962 | ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ |
| | 1963 | ○ ○ ○ |
| | 1964 | ● |
| | 1965 | ● ● |
| | 1966 | ● ● ● ● ● |
| | 1967 | ● ● |
| | 1968 | Stripped of title, suspended after refusing to be drafted into military |
| | 1969 | |
| Joe Frazier ● | 1970 | ○ ○ |
| Ken Norton ○ | 1971 | ○ ○ ○ |
| | 1972 | ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ |
| | 1973 | ○ ○ ○ |
| | 1974 | ○ ● |
| | 1975 | ● ● ● ● |
| | 1976 | ● ● ● ● |
| Leon Spinks ● | 1977 | ● ● |
| Larry Holmes ● | 1978 | ● |
| | 1979 | First retirement |
| | 1980 | |
| | 1981 | Retired after loss to Trevor Berbick |



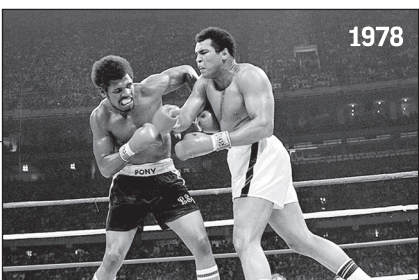
First world heavyweight title
Bobbing and weaving, Ali defeats Sonny Liston in Miami, winning the world heavyweight title at age 22. (AP Photo)



"The Rumble in the Jungle"
Uses "rope-a-dope" to knock out George Foreman in Zaire, recapturing the heavyweight championship. (AP Photo)



"Thrilla in Manila"
Defeats Joe Frazier in the Philippines in a brutal fight Ali later described as "the closest thing to dying" he had experienced. (AP Photo/ Kenichi Mori)



Third title
Wins a rematch with Leon Spinks in New Orleans, becoming the first man to win world heavyweight title three times. (AP Photo)