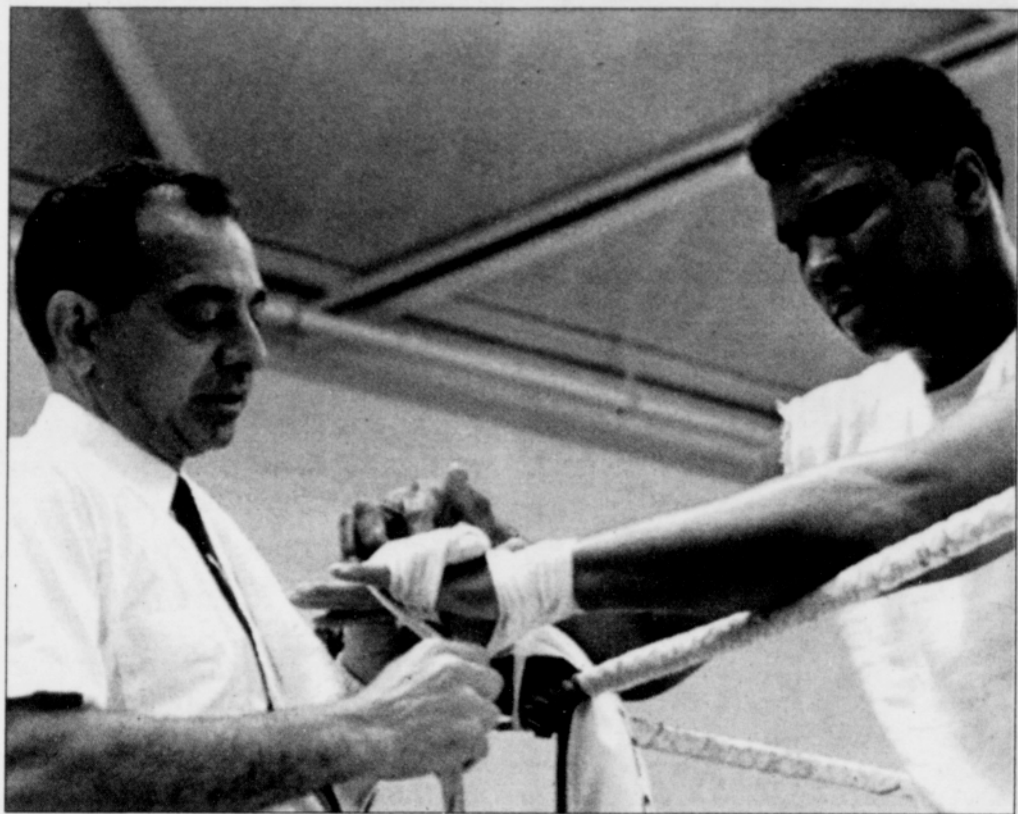


SPORTS



World Heavyweight Boxing Champion Muhammad Ali looks on as his hands are taped by trainer Angelo Dundee, before sparring with Jimmy Ellis during a 1966 training session in London. Dundee, one of boxing's most recognizable figures, died last week at the age of 90. (AP photo)

Celebrated Trainer a Ring Legend

Angelo Dundee was in Ali's corner for his greatest fights

(AP) -- Celebrated boxing trainer Angelo Dundee, Muhammad Ali's cornerman in his greatest fights, died Feb. 1 at the age of 90.

"Angelo died surrounded by family and friends," his family said in a statement.

"He was very happy that he got to celebrate Ali's (70th) birthday earlier this year, and also that he got to go to the Hall of Fame. He still had much to do, but led a full and extraordinary life."

Noted for his ability to motivate and challenge the best of boxers, Angelo passed away at his home in Tampa, Fla.

While working with Ali for the majority of the boxing great's career, Dundee trained 15 world champions in total, including Sugar Ray Leonard and George Foreman.

One of the more indelible memories of Dundee's career came in 1981 when he loudly exhorted Leonard in the late stages of a world championship

unification fight against Thomas Hearns.

After famously telling the fighter, "You're blowing it, son," Leonard came back out to register a thrilling knockout after having been dominated in preceding rounds.

"He saved Ray Leonard in the Hearns fight. He saved Ali (against Joe Frazier) in Manila," longstanding boxing promoter Bob Arum told Reuters, having worked with Dundee countless times over the years.

"To motivate (a fighter) takes a special skill and there aren't many people that can do it. In the (more than 45 years) I've been in boxing, he is the greatest cornerman by far of anyone that I've ever witnessed."

Dundee's work spanned six decades and he was inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame in 1994, cementing his legacy as an invaluable asset to some of the most decorated boxers of all time.

"Ali was this unbelievable figure, and a guy who symbolized an entire era of American culture and was idolized around the world," Arum added. "And through all those times, the person at his side was Dundee. For that, he will always be remembered."

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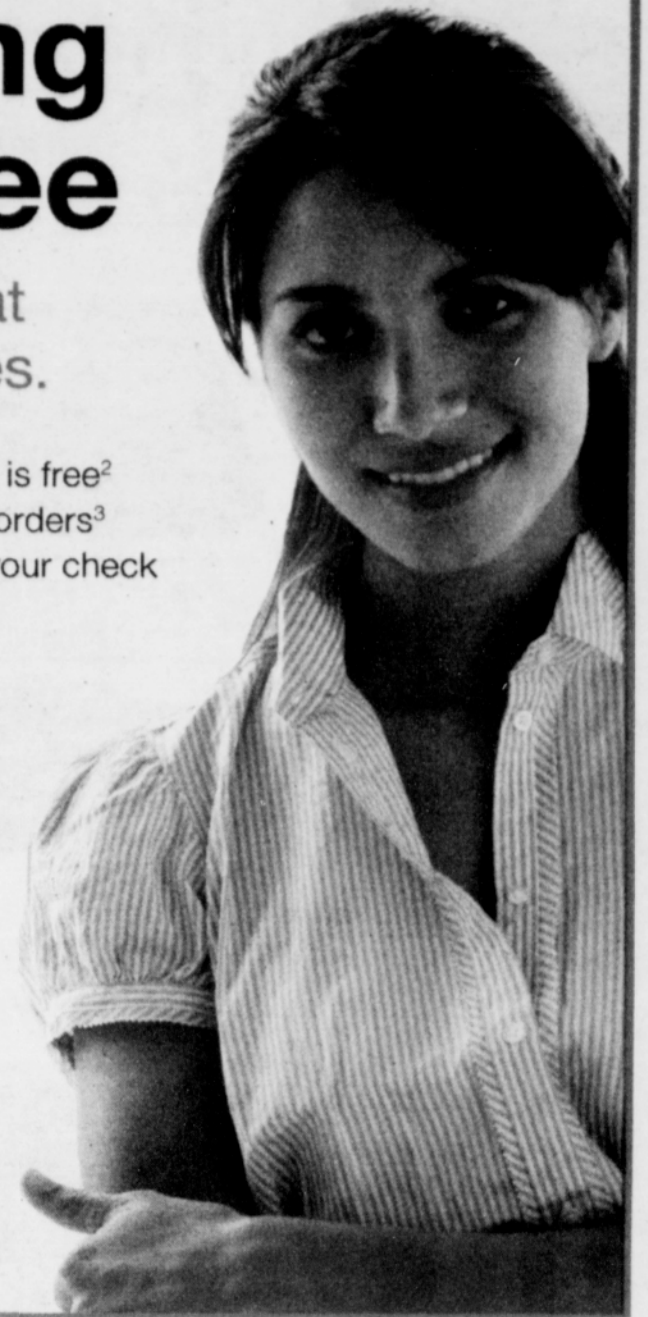
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