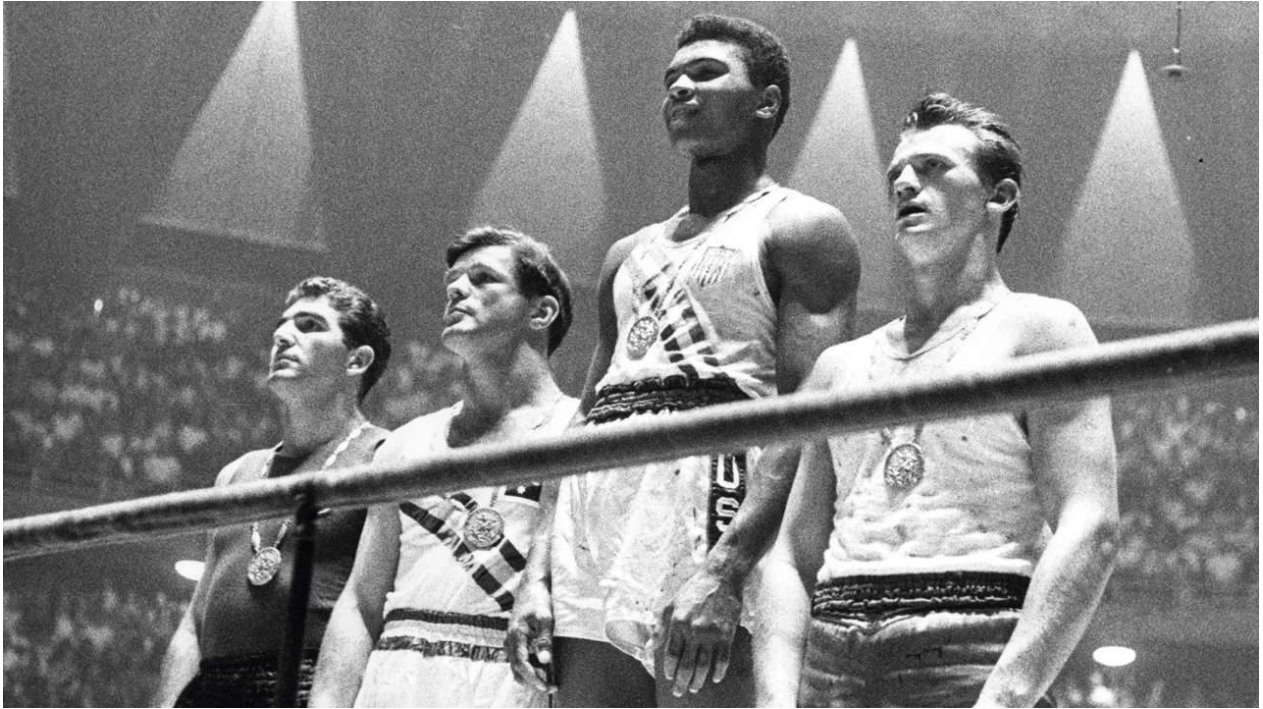


Muhammad Ali: The G.O.A.T [B2]

È stato il migliore di tutti i tempi, il più attraente, il più geniale, il più sfacciato, il più veloce, il più polemico, il più forte...ne parliamo con Jonathan Eig, autore della biografia definitiva della leggenda che superò i confini dello sport.



Muhammad Ali was born Cassius Clay in racially-segregated Louisville, Kentucky in 1942. He started boxing when he was twelve years old and proved to be a precocious talent, with a **dazzling** mix of power and speed. **Unlike** other boxers, who were **clunky** and **ponderous**, he danced gracefully around the ring. Outside the ring he had great **charm**, personal**ity** and humour. He was the first fighter to win the World **Heavyweight** Championship three times, winning classic fights along the way against Sonny Liston, Joe Frazier and George Foreman. After beating Liston, he declared himself a follower of the Nation of Islam and took the name of Muhammad Ali. When he refused to fight in the Vietnam War in 1967, to the **anger** of millions of White Americans, he was **banned** from boxing for more than three years. He then returned to the ring but some of his magic had disappeared. He finally retired in 1981.

MOVING TRIBUTE

Ali was also one of the leaders of the civil rights movement in the 1960s and 1970s, and later became known for his philanthropic activities. A sufferer from Parkinson's in his later years, he developed [slurred speech](#) and slowed movement due to brain damage from repeated [blows](#) to his head. But he remained active and radical in public life. When a visibly-[weakened](#) Ali [lit](#) the Olympic Flame at the start of the Games in Atlanta in 1996, his appearance, but also his pride and dignity, provoked a wonderfully warm reaction around the world. It remains one of the most [moving](#) moments in sports history.

THE GOAT

The GOAT: this [quirky](#) acronym is a term used to describe something or someone who is considered the absolute best ever in a certain category. Typically abbreviated as G.O.A.T. or GOAT, it appears [to undermine](#) the very greatness implied given its more overt reference to the [farmyard](#) animal, typically inciting [puns](#) and securing its [catchiness](#). In fact, G.O.A.T. has its origin in iconic boxer, Muhammad Ali. In 1992, Ali's wife Lonnie incorporated G.O.A.T. Inc., an [umbrella company](#) to consolidate and license her husband's intellectual properties for commercial purposes. In 1996, G.O.A.T. was first used online, and in 2000 LL Cool J really helped to popularise the word, when he [released](#) an album entitled G.O.A.T. (Greatest of All Time). The rapper credited Ali for its origin in a 2016 interview with Rolling Stone, saying "Without Muhammad Ali the term G.O.A.T. would have never been [coined](#)." In fact, G.O.A.T was not to become officially a word until 2018, when it was deemed admissible to the Merriam-Webster dictionary. To do so, it had [to fulfil](#) three criteria: that of being used by many people in many places; that of being used consistently and increasingly; and that of being used meaningfully, that is, in the same way by everyone.

Glossary

- **dazzling** = stupefacente
- **charm** = fascino
- **Heavyweight** = pesi massimi
- **to undermine** = minare
- **to fulfil** = adempiere
- **Unlike** = a differenza di
- **clunky** = goffi, sgraziati
- **blows** = colpi
- **moving** = emozionante
- **quirky** = bizzarro
- **released** = pubblicare
- **lit** = accendere
- **umbrella company** = società ombrello
- **catchiness** = orecchiabilità
- **ponderous** = pesanti
- **anger** = rabbia
- **banned** = vietare
- **slurred speech** = biasciare
- **weakened** = debilitato
- **farmyard** = fattoria
- **puns** = giochi di parole
- **coined** = coniare