



SONNY THOMSON

1932 – 1993

Although, Sonny Thomson started his own boxing career as a featherweight, he ended up coaching world-famous heavyweight champions. Thomson began his illustrious career when he was in his early teens, first boxing for the Diamond Boxing Club in 1946. A few years later, he opened his own club, The West Toronto Boxing Club, later renamed The EarlsCourt, where he took on the multiple roles of president, manager and trainer until 1962.

In 1951, he discovered twelve-year-old George Chuvalo, a kid whom Thomson rightly predicted had incredible boxing potential. Through Thomson's attentive coaching, Chuvalo blossomed as a fighter and eventually became Canadian Heavyweight Champion.

Thompson's passion for the sport continued throughout his life. He was still active in the early 1980s, coaching at the University of Toronto Boxing Club. During his years in the boxing world, Thomson frequently contributed to the sport outside of his own club; he held the position of Secretary Treasurer of the Ontario Boxing Association and became an official with the Ontario Athletic Commission. He also served as an executive member and director for the Canadian Boxing Hall of Fame.

In honour of his contributions to the Canadian boxing establishment, Thomson was inducted into the Canadian Boxing Hall of Fame in 1990. For his many years of mentoring and training young people in an effort to keep them out of trouble and off the streets, Thomson was recognized and inducted into the Etobicoke Hall of Fame.

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