

# Sammy Mandell, Ex-Lightweight Champion, Dies

**Won Title in 1926 and Lost  
It to Al Singer in 1930**

OAK PARK, Ill., Nov. 8 (AP) — Sammy Mandell, the lightweight boxing champion from 1926 until 1930, died last night at his home. He was 63 years old.

Mr. Mandell had been incapacitated since he suffered a stroke about 10 years ago. Until then he had been a bank security guard in Chicago.

Survivors include his widow, Elizabeth; a son, Richard; two sisters and a brother.

## Victorious in the Rain

On July 3, 1926, Sammy Mandell, then a 22-year-old stylish boxer from Rockford, Ill., stepped into a rain-soaked ring in Chicago's Comiskey Park to meet Rocky Kansas, the lightweight titleholder.

Through 9 of the 10 rounds he carried the fighting at a burning pace, jabbing, hooking, cuffing and at times bewildering the 35-year-old champion.

At the end, the referee, Phil Collins, raised Mandell's arm in victory and a cheer went up from the 15,000 spectators, whose sympathies had been captured by the Illinois contender.

That moment represented the pinnacle of a career that began when Mandell was 16 years old fighting "exhibitions" in clubhouses in circumvention of state laws against prizefighting.

Under the tutelage of his manager, Eddie Kane, he developed into a speedy boxer, his shifty footwork and quick hands more than compensating for his lack of power.

In the 107 regular decision contests that he fought between 1923 and 1934, Mandell won 82,



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**Sammy Mandell, when he  
was lightweight champion.**

lost 17 and drew 8. He knocked out 28 opponents and was floored only 5 times.

Sammy Mandell, was born on Feb. 5, 1904, in what was to become Albania. His parents brought him to this country as an infant and he grew up

**Stylish Boxer Compiled 82-17  
Record in 11 Years in Ring**

among Italian immigrants in Rockford.

When he began fighting he changed his name from Mandella, and consequently drew a large Jewish following. This was at a time when Benny Leonard and other Jewish boxers dominated the lightweight division.

In 1928, Mandell defended his 135-pound title against Jimmy McLarnin, from whom he won a 15-round decision before 25,000 at the Polo Grounds. The next year he took a split decision from the scrappy Tony Canzoneri, who two years later was to win the title.

But on July 17, 1930, before 35,000 at Yankee Stadium, 21-year-old Al Singer of the Bronx knocked out Mandell in 1 minute and 46 seconds of the first round to win the lightweight championship.

Mandell retired in 1931, but went on to fight 24 more bouts before finally quitting in 1934.