

## SPORTS

# Willink Technical Titans tackle concussions

Submitted to The Post

The Willink Technical Titans FLL Lego Robotics club was posed with an interesting question this year for their upcoming competition. "How can we improve the way we learn about concussions?" It is an open-ended question left for the kids, who choose a topic and find a solution. After brainstorming, the Technical Titans decided to improve the way we learn about concussions.

In 2010, about 2.5 million emergency department (ED) visits, hospitalizations, or deaths were associated with Traumatic Brain Injuries—either alone or in combination with other injuries—in the United States.

During their research, they brought in two individuals who have had experience with concussions.

Ahmed Mustafa is a paramedic with the North East Quadrant Advanced Life Support Inc. (NEQALS), a Webster-based not for profit corporation.

NEQALS provides primary advanced life support emergency medical services for the Towns of Webster, Penfield and Ontario, throughout the eastern part of Monroe County and western Wayne County.

Mustafa talked about his experiences in treating patients on the scene who have suffered a head injury.

Ray Ciancaglini, a

former middle-weight boxer and founder of the website ([www.thesecondimpact.com](http://www.thesecondimpact.com)), has been battling Dementia Pugilistica and Parkinson's syndrome for many years after his boxing career.

Ciancaglini talked about his personal experiences with undiagnosed and unaddressed concussions, which led him to become

an advocate for brain injury awareness, prevention, and treatment.

The Willink Technical Titans are now designing

an innovative tool to help others learn about concussions for their project piece of the competition in November.

