

SPORTS

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SECTION B

Impactful night for NYCBL

Ciancaglini helps kick off All-Star festivities

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GENEVA — Ray Ciancaglini Jr. used to patrol centerfield at McDonough Park for the Geneva Red Wings.

His father, Ray Sr., proudly wore his son's old uniform during Tuesday's NYCBL All-Star Game. The jersey — and the evening — fit the Geneva native perfectly.

Roberto's Kids scored seven runs in the first two innings and held on to defeat The Second Impact 8-7. Ciancaglini Sr., the former middleweight boxer who established The Second Impact to raise awareness about concussions among athletes, represented the squad that bore his foundation's name.



Spencer Tulis / Finger Lakes Times

Above: Dan Iturrey of the Geneva Twins takes a swing during Tuesday's NYCBL All-Star Game at McDonough Park.

Although battling Dementia Pugilistica and Parkinson's, Ciancaglini has maintained a busy speaking schedule, including an address during Tuesday's All-Star day, which included a player's skills competition in front of scouts from every Major League team.

"Today I had the privilege of talking at the Ramada about being a role model," Ciancaglini said. "That's something else I really like to instill in these young athletes. The choices they make dictate where they're going to go.

"My choices cost me, both in the ring and outside in my future potential. Your choices are going to guide your future."

The winning team represented the foundation established in memory of Pirates legend and Hall of Famer Roberto Clemente.

"We have The Second Impact and Roberto Clemente being represented; it's what the NYCBL is all about," said Dave Herbst, owner and president of both the Red Wings and Twins. "What Major League Baseball really wants us to do is give back. We're proud of our alliance with them."

The Red Wings' Kirby Campbell drove in a run for

Below: Rochester Ridgeman Nick Oddo gets tagged out in a rundown by Syracuse Junior Chief Stan Susana.



the Second Impact. The Twins' Dan Iturrey scored a run. Zac Fowler (Twins) fanned both batters he faced.

"It's a great night for the league and a perfect night for Geneva," said Red Wings manager Ross Trachtenberg, who is in his fifth season with the club. "I couldn't be prouder that

the All-Star Game is here and McDonough has showcased itself very well."

The day didn't pass by complication-free, though. A quick but heavy downpour two hours before game time halted the home run derby almost as soon as it began. But the newly upgraded field at McDonough withstood the rain.

"The field held up great and it paid off tonight," Herbst said. "If we had this game last year we wouldn't have been able to play with the rain we had before this game. I tip my hat to the staff for getting it ready."

The unpredictably wet weather has been a constant thorn in the side of the NYCBL this season and

Geneva Twins

YESTERDAY

No game (All-Star Game)

TODAY

Twins at Olean, 5 p.m.

TOMORROW

Olean at Twins (2), 5 p.m.

RECORD

12-14

NYCBL PLACING

Eighth of 11 teams

Geneva Red Wings

YESTERDAY

No game (All-Star Game)

TODAY

Red Wings at Oneonta, 7 p.m.

TOMORROW

Red Wings at Salt Cats, 5 p.m.

RECORD

11-12

NYCBL PLACING

Seventh of 11 teams

McDonough was well prepared.

"Both the Twins and Red Wings staff stepped up to get the field prepared," Trachtenberg said. "Ron Passalacqua has been working all summer with us. If it wasn't for him and the two staffs the field wouldn't be as good as it is."