

**BRAIN INJURY
ASSOCIATION**
OF AMERICA - MAINE

7TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE



*Ray Ciancaglini -
The Invisible Opponent*

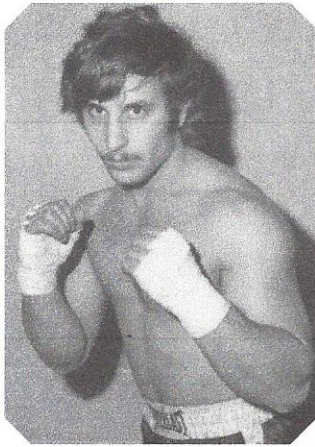
Defining Moments in Brain Injury

Tuesday, October 25, 2016

7:30 AM – 4:30 PM

Abromson Community Education Center
University of Southern Maine, Portland

Keynote Speaker - Ray Ciancaglini - *The Invisible Opponent*



In the mid 1960's, as a young up and coming boxer, there was very little known about sports related concussions. No one understood that a concussion is an invisible injury. There are no crutches, no stitches, no swelling or any other visual signs of injury. It is the unseen and the unknown that can cause a concussed athlete to be vulnerable to negative skepticism and peer pressure, which could persuade them into returning to competition before properly healing.

Ray knows all too well the mindset of a dedicated athlete, as determination and desire can sometimes defy common sense and logic. These factors fueled my bad decisions to ignore the symptoms of concussions and "Gut them Out."

A concussion became his invisible opponent, an opponent with lasting repercussions that he battles every day. The general public sometimes looks at him in disbelief because, outside of his Parkinsons Syndrome hand tremors, he appears in good health. They have no idea the pain and frustration that a brain injury carries with it, all because it is not visible to the eye. Ray has devoted his life to educating athletes about the importance of promptly reporting and being totally honest about their symptoms to a medical professional. He is also devoted to bringing more attention and consideration for individuals enduring a brain disability and to inspire them to never give up ~ just keep punching!

Beverly Bryant Memorial Lecture - Jeff Sebell - *My Brain Injury is Not the Boss of Me*

Jeff Sebell is an author, speaker, and TBI survivor. He'll discuss the importance of developing self-forgiveness and treating oneself as an individual and not just a brain injury, which are necessary steps for moving forward after this life-changing event.

The Beverly Bryant Memorial Lectures honors the legacy of Maine brain injury survivor, author, and national speaker Beverly Bryant. Beverly was dedicated to reminding us of the importance of hearing the survivor's voice, their observations, and stories of recovery.



Thank you to our Conference Sponsors!



New England Rehabilitation
Hospital of Portland

A joint venture of Maine Medical Center and HEALTHSOUTH

Hope is Here™

Neuro
Restorative™
Maine