

Concussion awareness crucial for athletes



Ray Ciancaglini

Ray Ciancaglini's shares life experience, a cautionary story that can save lives

Many athletes do not understand or take seriously the possible repercussions of hiding or playing through a concussion. They sometimes feel that they are invincible or that they are tough enough to gut it out. I was once one of those athletes. For many years, I have been battling Dementia Pugilistica and Parkinson's Syndrome. These progressive disorders are the direct result of my not addressing concussions properly as a young boxer.

The consequences of my actions have so deeply affected my life.

I endorse playing all sports but strongly stress the importance of being honest about symptoms and addressing a concussion properly.

I have been a concussion awareness and management advocate for many years and was instrumental in getting passed into



Ray Ciancaglini, a native of Geneva, New York, is a former professional boxer and award winning concussion awareness activist. [FILE PHOTOS]

NYS Legislation the current Concussion Management Awareness Act. I also founded the Second Impact website www.TheSecondImpact.com which is dedicated to concussion awareness.

My speaking engagements, that include my real life story (featured nationally by ABC News), have successfully resonated with thousands of student athletes at high schools, colleges and

sports organizations such as The NY Collegiate Baseball League and The NFL Player Development Camps.

My appearances are free of charge, last approximately 30 minutes, and I am not selling or endorsing any products.

References can be obtained from the many schools that I have spoken at such as Syracuse University, St. Bonaventure University, Mansfield University, University of New England, SUNY Brockport, SUNY Cortland, Ithaca College, Canisius College, Aquinas Institute of Rochester, East High (Rochester), North Rockland High School and others listed on The Second Impact website.

My awards and honors have included The Rochester Boxing Hall of Fame, Geneva Sports Hall of Fame, Golden Glove Heart Award, Jerry Flynn Courage Award, Rochester Hickok Hero Award, The NYS Executive Chamber Award, The Brain Injury Association of NYS Public Policy Award, GHS Positive Impact Award and The Camp Good Days Courage Award and the Geneva Rotary Paul Harris Award. My contributions were instrumental in getting passed into federal law the 1996 Professional Boxing Safety Act. My story was awarded

The New York Associated Press Top Sports Story of 2011 and also awarded The New York Publishers Association Top Sports Story of 2011.

I have been endorsed by the New York State Athletic Trainers' Association (NYSATA). I have been participating with retired NFL players in ongoing Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy (CTE) studies at the Boston University School of Medicine where upon my death my brain will be donated for CTE research.

I have dedicated my life to public awareness about concussions and am trying to reach as many young athletes as I can to give them the tools to make healthy decisions and I look forward to getting the opportunity to speak with student athletes, parents, coaches, school officials, and/or local community.

To schedule a (free!) speaking engagement or if I can be of any assistance, as a supplement to your school's concussion management program, please visit my website www.TheSecondImpact.com and feel free to contact me any time at 315-719-1031 (Cell) or e-mail at SecondImpactMail@yahoo.com.

Ray Ciancaglini, a former middleweight boxer, is a concussion awareness advocate.