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ATHLETICS

Former boxer tells cautionary tale to Athens Area students

By DAVE POST
Sports Editor

ATHENS — Whenever dignitaries come to our little Valley, people turn out to hear what they have to say.

Recently, a speaker came to the Valley without much fanfare to tell a cautionary tale that could have a far greater impact than most.

As long as his audience was paying attention and taking his words to heart, the 150 Athens Area students in attendance at Ray Ciancaglini's talk on Wednesday could derive great benefit.

Ciancaglini was brought to the Valley through an association with Athens trainer Steve Hicks and the Post-concussion Support Group.

"The concussion issue is significant (in the Valley)," said Hicks. "We deal with many concussions but the big thing is treating them properly at first."

For athletes, that includes making sure to be symptom-free before returning to competition.

Hicks does baseline testing through impact using the King-Devick test, then can administer the test on the sideline after an injury. If the athlete makes a mistake without making a correction or is a second off the base time it's an automatic removal from play.



Dave Post/Morning Times

Former boxer Ray Ciancaglini addresses Athen Area students about his experiences with concussions.