

# THE EVENING The Tribune

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## ASK DR. ANSWER-EXPERT

### New device helps combat multiple athletic concussions

Sports Legacy Institute (SLI) has launched a Hit Count® Certification Program with leading concussion experts and head sensor manufacturers to help make contact sports safer, anti-concussion activist and former boxer Ray Ciancaglini says.

Non-profit SLI estimates Hit Count® Certified Products monitoring brain trauma could eliminate millions of football head impacts annually while reducing concussion and long-term brain damage.

"Boston University School of Medicine Center for the Study of Traumatic Encephalopathy and SLI are renowned for their strides in research, prevention, awareness and management of sports-related traumatic brain injury, including concussions," Ray notes.

"Their hit-count program is a great technological breakthrough although I'm concerned about the possible cost of the monitoring helmet," he adds.

"I hope the projected price won't be the deciding factor for some school systems. Money should never be a factor in the safety of our athletes plus I wouldn't want a school to drop a sport because liability insurance could mandate the use of the special helmet," Ray continues.



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Ray adds "For the record, I am a strong advocate of BU & SLI. In fact I'm presently taking part in their studies. I believe they can eliminate my concerns in the future, hopefully without much litigation.

"Participating in sports builds great character, great work ethic, great self-esteem and confidence. All these qualities are building blocks for future successful pillars of our communities.

"My concern is possibly losing some of those avenues through the latest litigation being considered in New York State to ban football for youth under 14. LET THE KIDS PLAY, for goodness sakes. My suggestion: Ban dysfunctional coaching, such as in Texas. Catch 'Friday Night Tykes' on cable television if you want your blood to boil."

A-E note: Ray spends hundreds of hours each year lecturing to student athletes about the danger of playing too soon after concussions. He retired from boxing after fighting too soon after a massive concussion.