



PROGRAM: Club Assembly and Nominations

SPEAKER: Bill Phoenix

HOST: Bill Phoenix

GREETER: Jim Guild

WG SOTM: Courtney Irwin

THE INVISIBLE OPPONENT

HOSTED BY: JIM SOMERVILLE

PRESENTED BY: RAY CIANCAGLINI

Meeting Date: December 1, 2016 – Jim Somerville introduced Ray Ciancaglini, a native of Geneva, NY. Ray is a former professional boxer, award winning concussion awareness activist and established key note speaker. His personal life story was featured nationally by ABC News, which has been the subject of two New York Associated Press and New York News Publishers Award winning stories.

Ray was instrumental in getting passed into NY State Law, The Concussion Management Awareness Act, for which he was honored with the New York Executive Chamber Award and the Rochester Hickok Hero Award. Ciancaglini founded the Second Impact Concussion Awareness Program and tours nationally at high schools, colleges, NFL Player Development Camps and Youth Organizations-all free of charge with his message, lecturing athletes about the possible ramifications of not addressing concussions properly. The New York State Athletic Trainers' Association has endorsed Ray's Second Impact presentations.

These days, Ray struggles to form complete thoughts, and each day is a battle. He has a hard time writing his own name, and often times, struggles to recognize life-long friends. Early in his boxing career, Ray endured a second impact injury. This is when an individual absorbs a concussion on top of a previous concussion that has not yet healed. His durability was his own worst enemy during his boxing career. He had never been knocked out or knocked down which gave him a false sense of infallibility. The cumulative effects of several concussions left his fast hands unreliable and his sharp reflexes dulled.

After Ray's retirement from boxing, throughout the early 1980's, headaches became common place and denial ensued. After a 14 year career at Eastman Kodak, Ray's once impeccable work ethic progressively began slipping. He was forgetting how to perform regular duties at his job, began developing hand tremors and was constantly dazing out.

NEXT MEETING: DECEMBER 15

PROGRAM: General Surgery at Schuyler Hospital

SPEAKER: Dr. Wade Bollinger

HOST: Michelle Benjamin

GREETER: Ken Wilson



The toughest part of Ray's situation is that he now knows that the world he lives in every day was mostly avoidable. His mission now is to educate athletes in order to prevent them from following in his footsteps and unknowingly finding his world.

Ray has been battling Parkinson's Syndrome and Dementia for many years as a direct result of numerous untreated concussions. He has been participating in several CTE Research studies at the Boston University School of Medicine where he has donated his brain, upon his death.

Ray speaks at Traumatic Brain Injury Centers and Children's Special Needs Facilities about the importance of keeping a positive attitude and never giving up and gives inspirational lectures to sports teams and organizations about being a champion in athletics and in life. Ray's greatest reward, however, is knowing that he is resonating and making a difference in the lives of many athletes and survivors of brain injury.

Ray generously gifted the Club with a boxing glove inscribed "Watkins-Montour Rotary Club – Thank you for all you do for so many!" – Ray Ciancaglini

Source: TheSecondImpact.com