

Home » Ontario County » Canandaigua » Former boxer Ray Ciancaglini delivers powerful concussion awareness message in Canandaigua

Former boxer Ray Ciancaglini delivers powerful concussion awareness message in Canandaigua

March 24, 2025 1:34 AM / Updated: March 23, 2025 6:35 PM / [1](#) Staff Report

A Geneva man's journey from the boxing ring to national advocacy took center stage in Canandaigua, earning a standing ovation from a room of medical and sports professionals.

Ray Ciancaglini, a former professional boxer and founder of The Second Impact, delivered a compelling presentation on concussion awareness at the Finger Lakes Community College Auditorium. The event, titled "From Punches to Prevention: Protecting Athletes from the Hidden Dangers of Concussions," was sponsored by UR Medicine and Thompson Health.

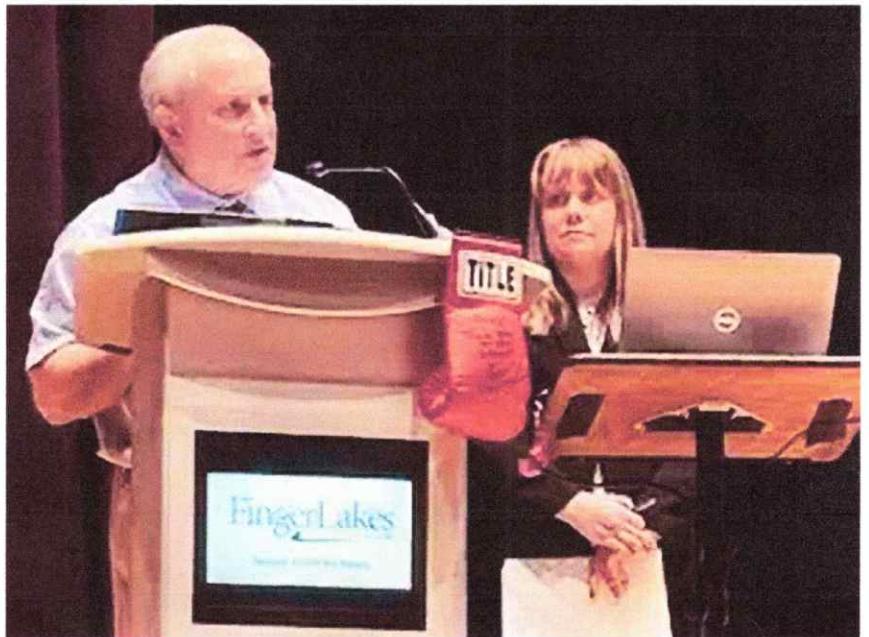


Ciancaglini spoke to an audience of doctors, lawyers, nurses, therapists, and athletic trainers, recounting how his failure to address concussion symptoms derailed a promising boxing career. He emphasized the importance of education, honesty, and timely reporting, drawing from his own experience with lasting health consequences.

His 45-minute talk received a 90-second standing ovation. The presentation included insights from UR Medicine Thompson Health professionals, including Dr. Peter Obourn.

Attendees praised Ciancaglini's courage and clarity. "Ray's message needs to be heard by all those involved with athletics," said Carl Wenzel, a former Geneva basketball coach. Carole Drake, Director of Rehabilitation Services at Thompson Health, called his story "nothing short of inspirational."

Ciancaglini, who remains pro-sports, advocates for practical safety measures—like flag football for kids under 14 and removing heading from youth soccer—to protect developing brains. He also pushed for national regulations to enforce concussion education and safeguards.



"Some athletes have to be protected from themselves," he told the audience. "A law or regulation and a national commission to enforce the regulation would have protected me from myself."

Get the latest headlines delivered to your inbox each morning. [Sign up for our Morning Edition to start your day.](#) FL1 on the Go! Download the free FingerLakes1.com App for [iOS \(iPhone, iPad\)](#).
