

SPORTS

FINGER LAKES TIMES
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COMING FRIDAY

Reports on area high school baseball and softball teams, many of whom are expected to play their season openers today

SECTION B

LOOKING FOR GAIN FROM A LIFETIME OF PAIN

Boxing concussed Ray Ciancaglini's brain more than he knew, and he wants young athletes to avoid his fate

By **CHRIS MARQUART**

FINGER LAKES TIMES

VARICK — Ray Ciancaglini can look at his trophy case and tell you incredible stories from his boxing career, even though he might not remember your name. He can hand you medals, awards and newspaper clippings, even though his hands shake from uncontrollable tremors.

Ciancaglini suffers from pugilistic dementia, leaving him alternately confused, forgetful and trembling with Parkinson's Syndrome-like shudders. It's the lasting mark of his star-crossed time in the ring, the result of layered head injuries that accumulated before the initial one had healed.

Now, 40 years after he left boxing behind, Ciancaglini is stepping into a new ring. He's trying to spread the word and fight back against the dis-



Ciancaglini

order that has so deeply affected his life.

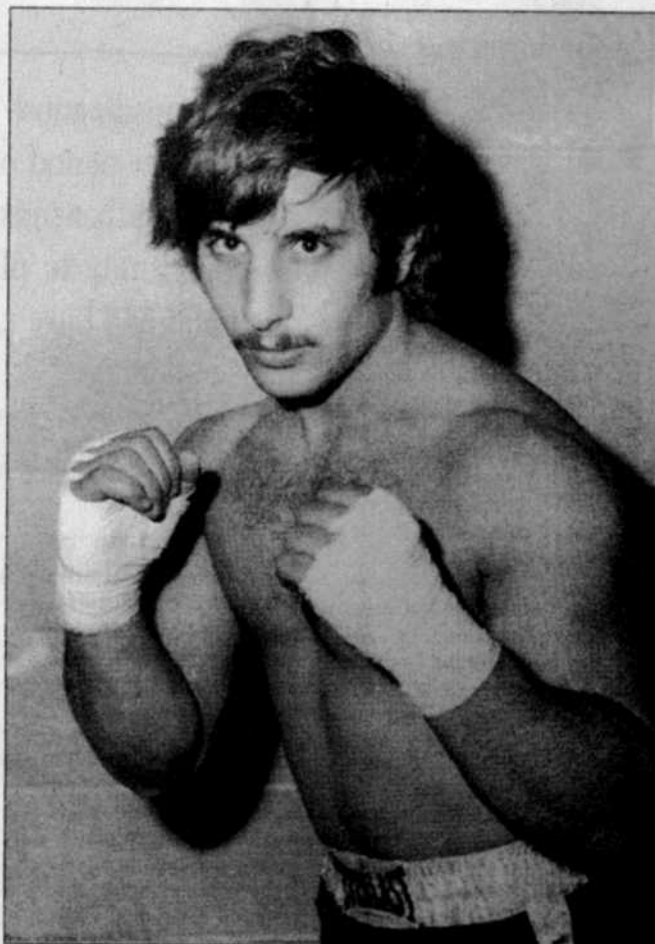
Ciancaglini has founded a website, "The

Second Impact," at www.thesecondimpact.com

. With the assistance of Dr. Jason Feinberg, the Varick resident is visiting local schools and talking with athletes. Not only is he addressing the severity of his own concussions, Ciancaglini is stressing the importance of treating the initial head injury and making sure it is fully healed before going back to the playing field.

"The game you sit out today could be the career you save tomorrow," Ciancaglini says. "All my life, in boxing, the old-timers at Singer's Gym told me to gut it up, to

■ See GAIN AND PAIN on Page 3B



Submitted photo

Ray Ciancaglini was dubbed "The Paladin Kid" during his time in the ring. This picture is on the home page of TheSecondImpact.com, a Ciancaglini-founded portal devoted to concussion awareness.

Nozzolio co-sponsors a bill aimed at concussions

By **CHRIS MARQUART**

FINGER LAKES TIMES

VARICK — From the beginning, Ray Ciancaglini's vision was to take "Second Impact" beyond the Finger Lakes region.

Already, his message is being heard in Albany.

Sen. Michael Nozzolio, R-54 of Fayette, is among a group of six state senators sponsoring a bill (S.3953) to help Ciancaglini's initiative reach athletes and coaching staffs throughout New York.

The legislation would require all athletes participating in activities sanctioned by the New York State Public High School Athletic Association to forgo any athletic activities for a minimum of 24 hours after a concussion is diagnosed.

"Ray is an outstanding

■ See BILL on Page 3B

Varsity Club

Finger Lakes Times sports writer Joshua DeSain takes a closer look at the growing awareness of the concussion problem in high school sports on Page 2B. Geneva High School plans to have all its coaches certified in concussion recognition by the fall season, and Palmyra-Macedon has implemented protocols to help identify when blows to the head are severe enough to sideline an athlete.