

MIDDLETOWN

Wings give emergency workers a lift

The lacrosse team will honor police, firefighters and emergency workers at Saturday night's game.

By **CHRIS ENGLISH**
STAFF WRITER

Sports met law enforcement Thursday when Philadelphia Wings lacrosse star Athan Iannucci stopped by the Middletown Police Department to pump up the Wings' American Heroes Night Saturday at the Wachovia Center.

The Wings, members of the National Lacrosse League, play their final regular season game at 7:30 p.m. against the Toronto Rock. American Heroes Night is a tribute to police, firefighters and members of the emergency medical service. Iannucci and the other Wings will wear police decals on their helmets to honor the late Middletown Officer Chris Jones and others killed in the line of duty.

Jones was killed in an accident Jan. 29 after stopping a motorist for speeding on the Route 1 Superhighway. He was posthumously promoted to detective.

In addition to the tribute Saturday night, the Wings have cooperated with Middletown, other police departments and the Lower Bucks Lacrosse League on fundraisers, which have raised \$1,000 for the Jones family, said Wings spokesman David Aiello.

Newtown Township Officer Paul Deppi, a Wings season ticket holder and coach in the Lower Bucks Lacrosse League, said it's been nice to work within a sport he loves to raise money and pay respect to fallen comrades.

"It's an honor to be part of it," Deppi said of the cooperative effort among police departments and the Wings.

In addition to Jones, eight Philadelphia police officers have been killed in the line of duty during the last three years.

Deppi said he and about 34 other officers plan to attend Saturday's game.

Thursday, Iannucci greeted Deppi and Middletown Officer Steve Forman, posed for pictures, tested out police motorcycles and exchanged equipment with police. Iannucci handed out some lacrosse shoulder pads and he received a bulletproof vest.

Chris English can be reached at 215-949-4193 or .