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Oley student designs patch for county K-9s

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A talented 18-year-old from Oley who designed a winning logo for the Berks County sheriff's department K-9 corps got to spend Friday night in a luxury box watching the Reading Royals with family and friends.

Timothy J. Smith, a senior at Oley Valley High School who studies advertising art and design technology at the Berks Career & Technology Center West Campus, was the winner of a logo design contest. His artwork was selected the best of about 50 entries from students across Berks County.

"This really is an honor," said Smith, who hopes to continue studying graphic design at Kutztown University. "I am so pumped right now, especially here in the general manager's suite. The energy is just sweet."

Smith's design has been made into patches worn by sheriff's K-9 dog handlers Danny Voorhies and Kyle Pagerly.

The handlers and their canines, Arez, a narcotics dog, and Jynx, an explosives dog, were at the Sovereign Center greeting fans along with members of the city police K-9 unit.

The game was a fundraiser for the city and county K-9 units. An honor guard from the sheriff's office presented the flags at the beginning of the game while Olivia M. Damore, 15, sang the national anthem. Her father, Tony Damore, is the chief deputy in the sheriff's department.

Even the Royals players got into the spirit, wearing specially designed jerseys with the new K-9 patches on the sleeves.

The jerseys were auctioned off after the game to raise money to support the city and county K-9 units. The Berks County Humane Society Inc. donated two bulletproof vests for the sheriff's K-9s at the game, and Sheriff Eric J. Weaknecht dropped the puck to start the game.

Smith will spend a day working with the sheriff and the K-9 corps and make two special presentations at Oley High School and BCTC West Campus.

"I hope this is a big step and head start for me," Smith said, relishing the moment.

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