

**WOODFORD COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE KENTUCKY BASEBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**CHICAGO** (June 3, 2024) — In its 39<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation’s most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Taylor Penn** of **Woodford County High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Kentucky Baseball Player of the Year**. Penn is the first Gatorade Kentucky Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Woodford County High School.

The award, which celebrates the nation’s top high school athletes for excellence on the field, in the classroom and in the community, distinguishes Penn as Kentucky’s best high school baseball player. From CEOs and coaches to star athletes, Gatorade Player of the Year winners showcase the power of sport, touting an all-star group of alumni that includes Gary Sheffield (1985-86, Hillsborough High School, Fla.), Alex Rodriguez (1992-93, Westminster Christian School, Fla.), Clayton Kershaw (2005-06, Highland Park High School, Texas) and Max Clark (2022-23, 2021-22 & 2020-21, Franklin Community High School, Ind.).

At the time of his selection, the 6-foot-5, 195-pound senior right-handed pitcher and third baseman had led the Yellowjackets (23-8) record and a berth in this season’s state baseball playoffs, scheduled to begin June 6. Penn compiled a 6-1 record on the mound through 31 games, posting a 0.43 ERA and recording 83 strikeouts against just eight walks in 49 innings of work. A two-time 8th Region Player of the Year and a 2023 First Team All-State selection, he enters the postseason batting .360 with two home runs, 27 RBI, 25 runs scored and a 1.009 OPS.

A member of the National Honor Society and a devoted parishioner of his church community, Penn has volunteered locally on behalf of the March for Babies and has participated in the Central Kentucky Heart Walk multiple times. “Taylor Penn is the best baseball player in the state and he can do anything on the baseball field,” said Paul Patterson, head coach at Woodford County High School. “If we have to win a baseball game, I’d pick him over anybody in the state to be on the mound. He’s an incredible teammate, fierce competitor and the hardest worker I’ve ever coached.”

Penn has maintained a 4.09 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at Western Kentucky University this fall.

The [Gatorade Player of the Year](#) program annually recognizes one winner in the District of Columbia and each of the 50 states that sanction high school football, girls volleyball, boys and girls cross country, boys and girls basketball, boys and girls soccer, baseball, softball, and boys and girls track & field, and awards one National Player of the Year in each sport. The selection process is administered by the Gatorade Player of the Year Selection Committee, which leverages experts including coaches, scouts, media and others as sources to help evaluate and determine the state winners in each sport.

Penn joins recent Gatorade Kentucky Baseball Players of the Year Evan Hart (2022-23, Mercer County Senior High School), Jack Bennett (2021-22, McCracken County High School) and Daylen Lile (2020-21 & 2019-20, Trinity High School), among the state’s list of former award winners.

As part of Gatorade’s commitment to breaking down barriers in sport, every Player of the Year also receives a grant to donate to a social impact partner. To date, the Gatorade Player of the Year program has provided more than \$4.9 million in grants to winners across more than 1,900 organizations.

To learn more about the Gatorade Player of the Year program, check out past winners or to nominate student-athletes, visit [playeroftheyear.gatorade.com](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com) or follow us on social media on Facebook at [facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://facebook.com/GatoradePOY), Instagram at [instagram.com/Gatorade](https://instagram.com/Gatorade) and X(Twitter) at [x.com/Gatorade](https://x.com/Gatorade).

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