

**MT. LEBANON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE PENNSYLVANIA 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 **David Shields** of **Mt. Lebanon High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Pennsylvania Baseball Player of the Year**. Shields is the first Gatorade Pennsylvania Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Mt. Lebanon 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 Shields as Pennsylvania'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-2, 210-pound senior left-handed pitcher and outfielder had led the Blue Devils (28-2) to the Class 6A WPIAL tournament final this season. Shields owned a 5-0 record on the mound through 30 games along with a 0.25 ERA and recorded 52 strikeouts against just three walks in 28 innings of work. At the plate, he batted .418 with seven doubles and 28 RBI entering the WPIAL final, compiling an OPS of 1.244. Ranked as the Nation's No. 41 prep prospect in the Class of 2024 by Baseball America, he was a participant in the MLB Prospect Development Pipeline League.

Shields has volunteered locally at the Miracle League baseball facility operated by big league veteran, Sean Casey. He's also donated his time to multiple youth events such as clinics, evaluations and games in association with the Mt. Lebanon Baseball Association. "David Shields was the best pitcher we faced this year," said Tim Buzzard, head coach at Hempfield High School. "He's also one of the best pitchers we've faced in my 17 years coaching at Hempfield High School. He has three plus pitches that he commands very well and he's so poised at all times throughout the game. It's very impressive for a player his age to be so composed, especially with the number of scouts that were in attendance when we played him. We knew we would have to hold their team to one run or less to have a chance against him."

Shields has maintained a 3.3 weighted GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at the University of Miami this fall, but is projected as an early round selection in July's Major League Baseball First Year Player Draft.

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.

Shields joins recent Gatorade Pennsylvania Baseball Players of the Year Kevin McGonigle (2022-23, Monsignor Bonner & Archbishop Prendergast Catholic High School), Paxton Kling (2021-22, Central High School), Benny Montgomery (2020-21, Red Land High School) and Nick Bitsko (2019-20, Central Bucks East 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).