

**LEXINGTON CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE KENTUCKY SOFTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 7, 2024) — In its 39th year of honoring the nation’s most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Abby Hammond** of **Lexington Catholic High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Kentucky Softball Player of the Year**. Hammond is the first Gatorade Kentucky Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Lexington Catholic 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 Hammond as Kentucky’s best high school softball 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 Amanda Freed (1997-98, Pacifica High School, Calif.), Cat Osterman (2000-01, Cypress Springs High School, Texas), Rachel Garcia (2014-15 & 2012-13, Highland High School, Calif.) and Ava Brown (2022-23 & 2021-22, Lake Creek High School, Texas).

At the time of her selection, the 5-foot-8 junior right-handed pitcher had led the Knights to a 26-2 record and a berth in Kentucky’s state tournament, scheduled to begin June 7. Also the state’s 2021-22 Gatorade Player of the Year, Hammond compiled a 25-2 record in the circle with a 0.53 ERA through 28 games. She struck out 255 batters against just 17 walks in 159.2 innings. Ranked as the nation’s No. 37 overall player in the Class of 2025 by Extra Innings Softball, Hammond batted .597 with 13 home runs, 38 runs scored and 38 RBI. She recorded a .716 on-base percentage and an OPS of 2.091.

A member of both the National Honor Society and Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Hammond has volunteered locally through the Catholic Action Center, which provides food and shelter for the homeless in Lexington. She has also participated in DanceBlue, a student-run organization that fundraises for the University of Kentucky Children’s Hospital Oncology Clinic. “She’s dominant in the circle and has been for three years now,” said Randy Hall, head coach at Madison Central High School. “She has speed and movement on all her pitches as well as a nice changeup. She’s also very smart with where she places her pitches ... Not only can she pitch, but she’s also one of the best hitters in the state.”

Hammond has maintained a 4.32 weighted GPA in the classroom. She has verbally committed to play softball on scholarship at the University of Kentucky in the fall of 2025.

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.

Two-time winner Hammond joins recent Gatorade Kentucky Softball Players of the Year Brooke Gray (2022-23, Ballard High School) and Riley Hull (2020-21 & 2019-20, Pulaski County 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 or follow us on social media on Facebook at facebook.com/GatoradePOY, Instagram at instagram.com/Gatorade and X(Twitter) at x.com/Gatorade.

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