

**TAUNTON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE MASSACHUSETTS 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 **Samantha Lincoln** of **Taunton High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Massachusetts Softball Player of the Year**. Lincoln is the second Gatorade Massachusetts Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Taunton 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 Lincoln as Massachusetts’ 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 6-foot senior left-handed pitcher had led the Tigers to a 21-0 record and a berth in the quarterfinals of the MIAA Division I state tournament. Lincoln compiled a 16-0 record in the circle with a 0.27 ERA through 21 games, surrendering just 30 hits over 105 innings. Entering the round of eight, she’d struck out 228 batters against just 15 walks and limited opponents to a 0.429 WHIP. Lincoln also batted .429 with four homers, 18 RBI and a 1.287 OPS.

Lincoln has volunteered locally with A Shot For Life, a sports nonprofit that funds health and cancer research initiatives. “I think Samantha Lincoln is the best pitcher in the state by far,” said Brittney Souza, head coach at Tewksbury High School. “She called her own pitches and moved the ball around very well. Her velocity is by far the best I’ve seen in high school softball. She has great command and has given up minimal runs while going undefeated.”

Lincoln has maintained a 4.25 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to play softball on scholarship at Texas Tech 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.

Lincoln joins recent Gatorade Massachusetts Softball Players of the Year Kelly Colleran (2022-23, North Attleborough High School) and Giana LaCedra (2021-22, 2020-21 & 2019-20 Lowell 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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