

## **SENECA VALLEY SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE PENNSYLVANIA SOFTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**CHICAGO** (June 7, 2024) — In its 39<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation’s most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Lexie Hames** of **Seneca Valley Senior High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Pennsylvania Softball Player of the Year**. Hames is the first Gatorade Pennsylvania Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Seneca Valley Senior 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 Hames as Pennsylvania’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-10 junior right-handed pitcher had led the Raiders (22-1) to the WPIAL championship this season and a berth in the quarterfinals of the PIAA Class 6A state tournament. Through the WPIAL title game, Hames compiled a 16-0 record with a 0.49 ERA and 241 strikeouts in 100.2 innings inside the circle. The nation’s No. 11 pitcher in her class as rated by Softball America, she held opposing batters hit 0.80 average. At the plate, she batted .423 with 8 home runs, 25 RBI and an OPS of 1.586.

A member of her school’s Student Athletic Leadership Team, Hames provides support for athletes in the district, including a community-involvement outreach program at area elementary schools. She has volunteered locally on behalf of a local food bank, Toys for Tots, the Salvation Army and Neighbors for Neighbors, which offers resources to families in need during the holiday season. She has also served as an instructor and coach at youth softball camps and clinics. “Lexie is always tough to handle,” said Ron Santillo, head coach at Baldwin High School. “She’s very confident in her pitches, shows a great mound presence and she’s in attack mode at all times. Probably her best attribute is that she’s the leader of her team and they go as she goes. This year, that resulted in a WPIAL title.”

Hames has maintained a 4.37 GPA in the classroom. She has verbally committed to play softball on scholarship at Clemson University 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.

Hames joins recent Gatorade Pennsylvania Softball Players of the Year Julia Shearer (2022-23 & 2021-22, North Penn High School), Mady Volpe (2020-21, North Penn High School) and Marissa Trivelpiece (2019-20, Hazleton Area 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).