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

CHICAGO (June 9, 2025) — In its 40th year of honoring the nation's most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Lexie Hames of Seneca Valley Senior High School is the 2024-25 Gatorade Pennsylvania Softball Player of the Year.

Gatorade Player of the Year is the top honor in high school sports, celebrating the nation's best high school athletes for their success on the field, in the classroom and in the community. The award distinguishes Hames as Pennsylvania's best high school softball player, and she joins an impressive group of alumni that spans CEOs, coaches and star athletes such Cat Osterman (2000-01, Cypress Springs High School, Texas), Rachel Garcia (2014-15 & 2012-13, Highland High School, Calif.), Ava Brown (2022-23, Lake Creek High School, Texas) and Addisen Fisher (2023-24, Bend High School, Oregon).

The 5-foot-10 senior right-handed pitcher and designated player led the Raiders to a 20-5 record and the WPIAL Class 6A District 7 final this past season. Hames went 17-3 in the circle and posted a 0.48 ERA, striking out 279 batters in 116 innings for an average of 2.4 Ks per inning. She fired nine shutouts, including two no-hitters and held opposing batters to a 0.80 average. At the plate, the 2024 PGF All-American batted .500 with seven home runs and 18 RBI to post an OPS of 1.945. She drew 41 walks and struck out only four times in 79 plate appearances. A standout for USA Softball's U-18 National Team at last summer's World Cup qualifier, she is ranked as the nation's No. 1 prospect in her class by Extra Innings Softball. She concluded her prep career with 951 strikeouts and was a two-time state champion.

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. "I've been coaching here for 24 years now and have seen the pitching talent throughout the state—Lexie is definitely deserving of the Gatorade Player of the year," said Michelle Moeller, head coach at Cannon Mac High School. "She is a threat not only from the rubber but at the plate as well as evidenced by her intentional walks this season. She has great spin and velocity with her rise ball playing on two to three levels. Throw into that mix her changeup and curve and she makes it tough to stay disciplined at the plate."

Hames has maintained a 4.68 weighted GPA in the classroom. She has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play softball at Clemson University this fall.

The <u>Gatorade Player of the Year</u> program annually recognizes one winner in the District of Columbia and each of the 50 states across 12 different high school sports – 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.

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 \$5.6 million in grants to winners across more than 2,000 organizations.

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

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