

Here are the 2025 Lexington All-City softball teams and player of the year

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The Lexington Herald-Leader and Kentucky.com present the 2025 All-City Softball Teams and player of the year as voted on by the eight high school coaches of Lexington's varsity KHSAA programs.

This year, Bryan Station's Karsyn Rockvoan edged out Lexington Catholic's Abby Hammond atop the list of All-City First Team selections for Lexington player of the year based on overall point totals from the weighted votes of the city's eight varsity coaches despite Hammond earning four top player votes to Rockvoan's three.

Lafayette's Rylan Music took the other top nod. Per tradition, coaches were not permitted to vote for their own players. Rockvoan and Hammond shared player of the year honors last year.

This year, Rockvoan, a junior, ranked seventh in the state with 282 strikeouts while compiling a 10-4 record and 0.96 ERA for the Defenders. Rockvoan topped 1,000 strikeouts for her career on May 9 of this season. She also stepped up her offensive game with a .306 average and team-high 22 hits and seven home runs.

Hammond, a senior Kentucky commit, led



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Bryan Station junior Karsyn Rockvoan was named Lexington's high school softball player of the year in a vote of the city's coaches.

Lexington Catholic to its third 43rd District title in five years, and second in a row. She finishes her high school career as a two-time Kentucky Gatorade player of the year, honors she earned in 2022 and 2024.

Joining Rockvoan, Hammond and Music on the first team were Frederick Douglass' Haley McGuire and Armani Happy, Lafayette's Anna Clay Denton and Addi Combs, Bryan Station's Tiahna Bowman, Paul Lau-

rence Dunbar's Tatum Golden and Henry Clay's Ella Smith.

Lexington's eight varsity softball coaches were asked to nominate players for All-City consideration. Later, the coaches ranked, one through 10, their top players from that list of nominees.

Selections were made regardless of position and each team was limited to a maximum of five All-City honorees. Point values

were assigned to each voting position (10 points for first-place votes, nine points for second-place votes, etc.) and the accumulation of those points was used to create the First and Second Teams.

ALL-CITY FIRST TEAM
Player, position(s), class, school, voting points (first-place votes)
Karsyn Rockvoan, P, Jr., Bryan Station, 66 (3)
Abby Hammond, P, Sr.,

Lexington Catholic, 61 (4)
Rylan Music, P/1B, Sr., Lafayette, 42 (1)
Haley McGuire, Utility, So., Frederick Douglass, 36
Anna Clay Denton, SS, Jr., Lafayette, 32
Tiahna Bowman, SS, Sr., Bryan Station, 26
Armani Happy, OF, Sr., Frederick Douglass, 19
Tatum Golden, SS, Sr., Paul Laurence Dunbar, 18
Addi Combs, Utility, So., Lafayette, 17
Ella Smith, P/ IN, Jr.,

Henry Clay, 13

ALL-CITY SECOND TEAM

Alexis Bazzell, 2B, So., Tates Creek
Abby Watts-Claunch, Utility, So., Henry Clay
Mack Waits, Utility, Jr., Lexington Christian
Kavery Myrick, 3B, Fr., Frederick Douglass
Aniyah Ferris, 2B, 8th, Bryan Station
Haylee Lefever, C, Jr., Frederick Douglass
Jarynn Bowman, 2B, So., Frederick Douglass
Piper Graham, Utility, Jr., Lexington Christian
Skylar Davis, C, So., Lafayette
Brynna Harris, OF, Jr., Lafayette

HONORABLE MENTION

Bryan Station: Adrienn Acure, 3B, So.; Brooke Weathers, 1B, Sr.
Henry Clay: Jayne Skaggs, P/INF, Fr.; Elise Pearson, Utility, Fr.; Kathryn Skaggs, OF, Fr.
Lexington Catholic: Sydney Ford, CF, Sr.; Aevea Mosley-Franklin, C, 8th; Kayla Mattingly, LF, Sr.; Lilly Hawthorne, 1B, 7th.

Lexington Christian: Anna Gorshak, C, Sr.; Madison Wertzler, Utility, Fr.; Sophia Gorshak, OF, Fr.

Paul Laurence Dunbar: Samantha Dixon, CF, So.; Cortney Diersen, 3B, Jr.; Ellie Brajuha, C, 7th; Lily Sawyers, 2B, 8th.

Tates Creek: Alexis Sempsrott, P, Fr.; Kylie Howell, 3B, So.; Hannah Jones, SS, Fr.; Kacey Cline, 1B, Sr.

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school — are part of the proposed settlement of the consolidated antitrust lawsuit, House vs. NCAA, which challenged the right of college sports governing bodies to restrict the income college athletes could earn off of their names, images and likenesses.

On Monday, United States district court senior judge Claudia Wilken granted attorneys involved in the case an extension until June 27 to file for summary judgment and to challenge the admissibility of expert testimony.

Even if the judge does not ultimately approve the settlement, UK can, if it chooses, start directly paying its athletes. Kentucky state law was amended in March to allow UK — and other instate universities, if they so choose — to begin sharing revenue with athletes in 2025-26.

If the new regime is enacted, college athletes will still be able to earn income beyond the school revenue share via outside NIL deals. However, in a

measure aimed at handicapping booster-funded recruiting collectives, athletes will have to seek approval for all NIL contracts from a clearinghouse run by the accounting firm, Deloitte.

For University of Kentucky athletics administrators, the new revenue-sharing era has the potential to yield some vexing choices over how to allocate funds.

BASKETBALL VS. FOOTBALL

Obviously, men's basketball has long been UK's marquee athletic program. As such, there would be a rationale for the university to distribute its revenue sharing to athletes in such a way as to put the Kentucky men's hoops program at an advantage over its peer schools.

Adding to that incentive, it is widely expected that if the revenue sharing model with the de facto cap on such expenditures is adopted, then universities that are basketball powers but do not also have to support power-conference football programs will have substantially more money to share with hoops players than will the schools in "big

time" football leagues.

How patient are fans at Kentucky (and Kansas, North Carolina, Michigan State, etc. ...) going to be if programs such as St. John's, Villanova, Creighton and Gonzaga keep getting the top basketball prospects because they can offer more cash?

For UK, the problem with tilting revenue sharing heavily toward hoops is that, even at Kentucky, football is the most lucrative sport. According to the federal government's Equity in Athletics Data Base, UK had \$46,617,232 in revenue from football in 2022-23 (the most recent year for which figures are available) compared to \$30,925,377 in men's basketball revenue.

In the big picture, few believe that the forces that propel college sports realignment are abating, or that the present conference configuration at the top of NCAA Division I sports is final. Fact is, the attractiveness of a university's football program almost exclusively determines how a school is viewed in realignment scenarios.

As talks percolate of a football-centric "super league" potentially form-

ing, there is an argument that having a relevant pigskin program should be the University of Kentucky's top objective in terms of securing its athletics future.

That forms the basis for the case that Kentucky, which has traditionally

struggled to achieve and sustain football success in the Southeastern Conference, should allocate its revenue sharing in such a way as to try to create advantage for the Wildcats football program.

Given all of this, the revenue-sharing era in

college sports is probably going to force the athletics administration at the University of Kentucky to live in a world of challenging choices.

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Crown bid to attract the attention of the casual fan. On the other hand, this year's Belmont boasts a first-class field with, as Sovereignty trainer Bill Mott would say, some serious racehorses.

Santa Anita Derby winner Journalism was the favorite at Churchill Downs on the first Saturday in May. Trained by Michael McCarthy, the colt ran well in the Derby. Sovereignty ran a bit better.

Two weeks later, Journalism ran a Preakness for the ages. Bottled up in traffic, jockey Umberto Rispoli was able to squeeze the son of Curlin through a narrow hole between horses to victory. If there were those who doubted Journalism's talent before, surely they were gone after his Pim-

lico performance.

Sovereignty is no slouch, either. A Goldolphin homebred, he confirmed his excellent breeding with his Kentucky Derby win. Mott is a Hall of Fame trainer who knows the ins and outs of Saratoga as well as anyone. With the added rest, Sovereignty could be tough to beat.

Then there's Baeza, a \$1.2 million purchase at the 2023 Keeneland September Yearling Sale. The son of McKinzie is trained by the 80-year-old John Shirreffs, who despite being based in California was quick to point out Tuesday he considers himself a native New Yorker.

"The Belmont is so historic, and the race is historic, so it would be just wonderful to win the Belmont," said Shirreffs, who was born in Kansas but grew up on Long Island.

There are other contenders in the eight-horse field. Trained by Bob Baffert, Rodriguez looks to

be the early speed. Saturday would not be the first time a Baffert horse set the early pace in the Belmont and continued on to victory. He's won the race three times.

Keep an eye on Peter Pan winner Hill Road, trained by Chad Brown. He ran third in last year's Breeders' Cup Juvenile. He has raced just twice this year, finishing third in the Tampa Bay Derby before his May 10 win in the Peter Pan.

"He's been looking for a mile-and-a-quarter for some time, so I hope that works in his favor," Brown said Tuesday. "The unfortunate thing is you already have proven mile-and-a-quarter horses in the race, and they're really good ones."

Ones worthy of a large viewing audience. We'll see if this year's Belmont Stakes gets it.

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