

OAK CREEK HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE WISCONSIN BASEBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (June 3, 2024) — In its 39th year of honoring the nation’s most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Payten Jibben of Oak Creek High School is the 2023-24 Gatorade Wisconsin Baseball Player of the Year. Jibben is the second Gatorade Wisconsin Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Oak Creek 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 Jibben as Wisconsin’s best high school baseball 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 Gary Sheffield (1985-86, Hillsborough High School, Fla.), Alex Rodriguez (1992-93, Westminster Christian School, Fla.), Clayton Kershaw (2005-06, Highland Park High School, Texas) and Max Clark (2022-23, 2021-22 & 2020-21, Franklin Community High School, Ind.).

At the time of his selection, the 6-foot-3, 210-pound senior right-handed pitcher and outfielder had led the Knights (23-3) to the sectional round of the Division 1 state tournament. The 2023 Wisconsin Baseball Coaches Association Player of the Year, Jibben compiled an 8-0 record on the mound with a 0.71 ERA through 26 games, recording 58 strikeouts in 39.2 innings while holding opposing hitters to a .178 batting average. The 2023 First Team All-State selection also batted .512 with four home runs, 40 RBI and an OPS of 1.430 entering the postseason, striking out just five times in 85 plate appearances.

A devoted parishioner in his church community, Jibben has volunteered locally as a youth baseball coach. “Payten Jibben is the best two-way player in the history of our program, and we’ve had some incredible players over the past 25 years,” said Oak Creek High School head coach Scott Holler. “His work ethic is second to none and he takes his health, preparation and knowledge of the game very seriously. He is a coach’s dream and a leader in our school.”

Jibben has maintained a 3.61 weighted GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at UIC 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.

Jibben joins recent Gatorade Wisconsin Baseball Players of the Year Dylan Questad (2022-23, Waterford Union High School), Mitch Voit (2021-22, Whitefish Bay High School), Owen Washburn (2020-21, Webster High School) and Max Wagner (2019-20, Preble 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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