

**UMS-WRIGHT PREPARATORY SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE ALABAMA BASEBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 29, 2021) — In its 36th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Maddux Bruns of UMS-Wright Preparatory School** as its **2020-21 Gatorade Alabama Baseball Player of the Year**. Bruns is the second Gatorade Alabama Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from UMS-Wright Preparatory School.

The award, which recognizes not only outstanding athletic excellence, but also high standards of academic achievement and exemplary character demonstrated on and off the field, distinguishes Bruns as Alabama's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year award to be announced in July, Bruns joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Derek Jeter (1991-92, Kalamazoo High School, Mich.), Jon Lester (2001-02, Bellarmine Preparatory School, Wash.), David Price (2003-04, Blackman High School, Tenn.), Clayton Kershaw (2005-06, Highland Park High School, Texas), Rick Porcello (2006-2007, Seaton Hall Preparatory School, N.J.) and Kris Bryant (2009-10, Bonanza High School, Nev.).

The 6-foot-2, 210-pound senior left-handed pitcher compiled a 7-0 record on the mound with a 0.86 ERA this past season, leading the Bulldogs to a 19-12 record and the round of 16 in the Class 5A state tournament. Bruns struck out 102 batters while walking just 19 in 49 innings pitched. The 2021 Alabama Sports Writers Association Mr. Baseball winner, he posted a .337 batting average with three home runs, 17 RBI and a .450 on-base percentage.

Bruns has volunteered locally on behalf of his school's Crimson & Grey Day annual fundraiser and as a youth baseball coach. "Maddux Bruns is a consummate leader," said UMS-Wright head coach Gerry Raley. "He is the hardest-working kid I've ever coached and he is very focused."

Bruns has maintained a 3.61 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at Mississippi State University this fall, but is projected as an early-round selection in July's Major League Baseball draft.

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 works with top sport-specific experts and a media advisory board of accomplished, veteran prep sports journalists to determine the state winners in each sport.

Bruns joins recent Gatorade Alabama Baseball Players of the Year William Kohn (2019-20, Chilton County High School), Gunnar Henderson (2018-19, John T. Morgan Academy), Garrett Wade (2017-18, Hartselle High School), and Tanner Burns (2016-17, Decatur High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Through Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Bruns has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of their choosing. Bruns is also eligible to submit a 30-second video explaining why the organization they chose is deserving of one of twelve \$10,000 spotlight grants, which will be announced throughout the year. To date, Gatorade Player of the Year winners' grants have totaled more than \$2.7 million across 1,117 organizations.

Since the program's inception in 1985, Gatorade Player of the Year award recipients have won hundreds of professional and college championships, and many have also turned into pillars in their communities, becoming coaches, business owners and educators.

To learn more about the Gatorade Player of the Year program, check out past winners or to nominate student-athletes, visit playeroftheyear.gatorade.com, on Facebook at facebook.com/GatoradePOY or follow us on Twitter at twitter.com/Gatorade.

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