

**JACKSON ACADEMY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE MISSISSIPPI BASEBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 3, 2022) — In its 37th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Dakota Jordan** of **Jackson Academy** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Mississippi Baseball Player of the Year**. Jordan is the first Gatorade Mississippi Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Jackson Academy.

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 Jordan as Mississippi's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year award to be announced in June, Jordan 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 (2006-07, Seaton Hall Preparatory School, N.J.) and Kris Bryant (2009-10, Bonanza High School, Nev.).

The 6-foot, 205-pound senior outfielder batted .524 with 16 home runs and 57 RBI this past season, posting an OPS of 1.180 and scoring 50 runs to lead the Raiders (21-14) to the Midsouth Association of Independent Schools Class 6A semifinals. Jordan is the state's No. 2 prospect in the Class of 2022 as rated by Perfect Game and No. 35 high school prospect in July's MLB Draft by Baseball America. He reached base 63.5 percent of the time this spring.

Jordan has volunteered locally as a youth baseball and football coach. "Dakota Jordan is definitely a difference-maker as a player," said Allen Pavatte, head coach at Madison-Ridgeland Academy. "I would put him among the top 10 high school players I have ever seen play. He's a powerful hitter and an all-round talent who can play at the next level. He has some of the quickest hands I've seen and he's a powerful hitter."

Jordan has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball and football on scholarship at Mississippi State University 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.

Jordan joins recent Gatorade Mississippi Baseball Players of the Year Braden Montgomery (2020-21, Madison Central High School), Blaze Jordan (2019-20, DeSoto Central High School), Colten Keith (2018-19, Biloxi High School), and J.T. Ginn (2017-18, Brandon High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Gatorade has a long-standing history of serving athlete communities and understands how sports instill valuable lifelong skills on and off the field. Through Gatorade's "Play it Forward" platform, Jordan has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national organization of their choosing that helps young athletes realize the benefits of playing sports. Jordan is also eligible to submit a short 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 \$3.5 million across more than 1,300 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 or follow us on social media on Facebook at facebook.com/GatoradePOY, Instagram at instagram.com/Gatorade and Twitter at twitter.com/Gatorade.