

**BOB JONES HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE ALABAMA BASEBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**CHICAGO** (June 3, 2024) — In its 39<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation’s most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Braden Booth** of **Bob Jones High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Alabama Baseball Player of the Year**. Booth is the first Gatorade Alabama Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Bob Jones 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 Booth as Alabama’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.).

The 6-foot-1, 190-pound senior right-handed pitcher and shortstop led the Patriots to a 44-9 record and the Class 7A state championship this past season. Booth compiled a 13-1 record on the mound with a 1.51 ERA and 127 strikeouts in 83.1 innings of work. At the plate, he batted .429 with 10 home runs, 49 RBI and 57 runs scored, compiling a 1.333 OPS. Ranked as the state’s No. 5 prospect in the Class of 2024 by Perfect Game, Booth earned MVP honors in the Class 7A State Championship Series when he batted .700 with three home runs. He tossed a complete-game, two-hitter with seven strikeouts in the series opener.

A member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Booth has volunteered locally on behalf of the Miracle League of North Alabama and as a youth mentor for elementary school students. “Braden Booth is the ultimate teammate and competitor,” said Jared Smith, head coach at Bob Jones High School. “He’s one of the hardest workers that I have ever had the privilege to coach. He is the best player ever to play at our school and can affect any game on the mound or at the plate.”

Booth has maintained a 3.68 weighted GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball 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.

Booth joins recent Gatorade Alabama Baseball Players of the Year Hayes Harrison (2022-23, Oxford High School), Drew Nelson (2021-22, Pike Liberal Arts School), Maddux Bruns (2020-21, UMS-Wright Preparatory School) and William Kohn (2019-20, Chilton County 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](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com) or follow us on social media on Facebook at [facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://facebook.com/GatoradePOY), Instagram at [instagram.com/Gatorade](https://instagram.com/Gatorade) and X(Twitter) at [x.com/Gatorade](https://x.com/Gatorade).

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