

**JACKSON PREPARATORY SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE MISSISSIPPI 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 **Konnor Griffin** of **Jackson Preparatory School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Mississippi Baseball Player of the Year**. Griffin is the first Gatorade Mississippi Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from Jackson Preparatory 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 Griffin as Mississippi’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-4, 215-pound senior shortstop, center fielder and right-handed pitcher led the Patriots to a 39-4 record and their seventh consecutive MAIS Class 6A state title this past season. Griffin batted .559 and stole a jaw-dropping 87 bases while getting caught only twice. He also hit nine home runs to go with 39 RBI, 76 runs scored, producing a .690 on-base percentage. Ranked as the nation’s No. 1 draft prospect in the class of 2024 by Baseball America and one of only two prep players in the country on the Golden Spikes Award watch list, he also compiled a 10-0 record on the pitcher’s mound with a 0.72 ERA and 107 strikeouts in 67.2 innings of work, holding opposing hitters to a .127 batting average.

A student leader for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Griffin has volunteered locally on behalf of the Rise 2 Greatness Foundation, the Epilepsy Foundation and as part of youth literacy initiatives in association with elementary schools in his community. “Konnor Griffin is everything you would expect out of the top high school player in the nation,” said Ryne Long, head coach at Ocean Springs High School. “As far as skill goes there’s no question that he stands above the rest. The most impressive thing to me was how he carried himself as a leader and competitor. He was constantly communicating with his teammates and giving words of encouragement. With the kind of pressure and spotlight that’s on him at all times, he always carried himself like a professional and with class.”

Griffin has maintained an A average in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at Louisiana State University this fall, but is projected as an early round selection in July’s Major League Baseball First Year Player 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 leverages experts including coaches, scouts, media and others as sources to help evaluate and determine the state winners in each sport.

Griffin joins recent Gatorade Mississippi Baseball Players of the Year Cooper Pratt (2022-23, Magnolia Heights School), Dakota Jordan (2021-22, Jackson Academy), Braden Montgomery (2020-21, Madison Central High School) and Blaze Jordan (2019-20, DeSoto Central 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.