

GAYLORD HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE MICHIGAN SOFTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (June 7, 2024) — In its 39th year of honoring the nation's most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Aubrey Jones** of **Gaylord High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Michigan Softball Player of the Year**. Jones is the first Gatorade Michigan Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Gaylord 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 Jones as Michigan's best high school softball 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 Amanda Freed (1997-98, Pacifica High School, Calif.), Cat Osterman (2000-01, Cypress Springs High School, Texas), Rachel Garcia (2014-15 & 2012-13, Highland High School, Calif.) and Ava Brown (2022-23 & 2021-22, Lake Creek High School, Texas).

The 5-foot-10 junior shortstop and right-handed pitcher has led the Blue Devils (33-4) to the Division 2, District 34 title this past season and a berth in the Regional 9 semifinals, scheduled for June 8. In the circle, Jones compiled a 13-0 record in 64 innings with a 0.483 ERA and 108 strikeouts against just eight walks through 37 games. She also batted .417 and blasted 23 home runs, picking up 73 RBI and scoring 58 runs. A whopping 34 of her 39 hits went for extra bases and she posted an OPS of 1.698. Ranked as the nation's No. 43 position player in her class by Softball America, she also played in the Future Stars Game at the 2023 Women's College World Series.

A member of the National Honor Society, Jones has donated her time as a chapter leader for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and she has volunteered as a youth softball instructor. "Aubrey Jones is the kind of player that needs to be in a 'different league' where they can match her talent level—and she'd still be a five-tool player there," said Chris Kokaly, head coach at Essexville High School. "She has everything you would want in a player and everything that scares you to coach against. Not only does she have a great swing, but she owns plus-plus power. She plays defensively as well as you'll see with an arm that is second to none. Then, when she's needed in the circle, she can throw 66 miles an hour. If there is or has been a more complete player, I haven't seen her. Hands-down, one of the best players and kids you will ever see at the high school level."

Jones has maintained a 3.92 GPA in the classroom. She has verbally committed to play softball on scholarship at Oklahoma State University in the fall of 2025.

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.

Jones joins recent Gatorade Michigan Softball Players of the Year Reganne Bennett (2022-23, Novi High School), Ava Bradshaw (2021-22, South Lyon High School), Kali Heivilin (2020-21, Three Rivers High School) and Gabi Salo (2019-20, Escanaba 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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