

## **Jones Named Player Of Year, AGAIN!**

Written by Mike Kelly  
Saturday, 13 July 2013 21:41

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The North Carolina Baseball Coaches Association has named former Watauga High player Ryder Jones the Class 4A Player of the Year. It's Jones' third Player of the Year award. He was named the Player of the Year in the Northwestern 3A/4A Conference, and he was named the North Carolina Gatorade Baseball Player of the Year. He's been named all-state by the NCBCA and NCPreps.com.

Jones, who was taken by the San Francisco Giants in the second round of the Major League Baseball Amateur Draft on June 6, with the 64th pick, is also the first WHS player to be selected that high (Jonathan Greene, who was in his junior year at Western Carolina University, went to the Texas Rangers in the eighth round in 2007). Jones batted .461 in his first and only season with the Pioneers last spring. He also set school records for runs-batted-in with 43, 21 walks, and eight intentional walks. Jones also tied the single-season school record with 11 home runs, originally set by Greene in 2004.

Jones, currently a member of the Giants rookie Arizona League affiliate, the AZL Giants, is hitting .333 through seven games with two RBI, four walks, and three doubles.

**Photo Courtesy: Ryder Jones, PHOTO SUBMITTED**