

# "MIKE" KILKENNY SIGNED TO PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL CONTRACT BY DETROIT TIGERS



**"Mike" Kilkenney**  
(By E. R. W.)

David Michael "Mike" Kilkenney, 19-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Keith Kilkenney of Bradford, has been signed to a professional baseball contract by the Detroit Tigers of the American League after spirited bidding by at least six other major league teams interested in acquiring the personable young left-handed pitcher's services.

No exact figures have been released as to the size of the bonus the six foot three inch, 170 lb. native of Bradford received for signing, but a good estimate would be \$8,000.00 which will increase substantially should he reach the American League. However, young Kilkenney did receive the largest bonus ever paid a Canadian to sign a professional baseball contract.

Tabbed as "can't miss" by most qualified observers, Mike Kilkenney began his pitching career in the old Bradford town league. From there he graduated to Leighton Giffen's Bradford Bantams, and mainly on the strength of his pitching the team reached the Ontario semifinals before losing to Chesley.

When minor baseball folded in Bradford, Kilkenney had to go out of town in search of a team to play with. He tried out with Aurora under Joe Murphy playing in the Leaside Junior League, the fastest junior loop in Canada. After warming the bench for six games, Murphy gave him the opportunity to pitch. He stopped Doug Laurie's Sports cold and then followed it up by throwing a two-hitter against Richardson's. All told Kilkenney pitched 51 innings for Aurora striking out 100 men in the process. But Aurora folded and he was forced to sit out the rest of the year except for pitching four innings for People's Credit Jewellers in a baseball tournament at Maple Leaf Stadium.

This year Kilkenney signed with Doug Laurie's Sports in the same league under the tutelage of Norm McLelland. Before turning professional he pitched 62 innings for that team striking out 135 batters. His