Area pitchers picked in Major League draft worried about signing at first but I de-cided that I've got to get started now if I want to play in the pros." Wilkins signed a two-year contract with the Cubs and if he improves will eventually become a member of the major league squad. Herm Hannah, the Cubs' scout who first spotted Wilkins way back in his high school pitching days, has followed the pitcher ever since.

Two former area prep baseball play-ers-Mark Wilkins, from Livonia Franklin and John Collier, from Red-ford Union-were selected recently in the professional winter baseball draft. Wilkins was drafted in the first round by the Chicago Cubs and has since signed a contract to play with the National League team.

round by the Chicago Cube and has since signed a contract to play with the National League team.

Collier was picked up by the Detroit Tigers in the seventh round and has decided not to sign. Collier will, instead, wait for the summer draft.

Wilkin's background in baseball goes way back. He started early and then really got into the sport in high school.

"Ron Hellier (former Franklin baseball coach) was a major influence on me. He changed a lot of things in both my pitching style and my attitude," Wilkins said. "When I was in 10th grade, I didn't think I would be continuing in the sport. Mr. Hellier told me to come out and I thought it would be a challenge, so I did.

"Mr. Hellier taught me a lot of things. He turned me into a pitcher and helped build my confidence," continued wilkins.

From Franklin, Wilkins went to Eastern Michigan University where he played for one year and pitched in only a couple of game. It was then that he-decided to transfer to Washtenaw Com-

Birmingham's Chuck Davey, Michigan Boxing Commissioner and successful insurance executive for New Dagland Life, was among the former light idols honored recently at the New York Downtown Alcheet Clube third annual "Salute to Boxing Greats." The Downtown A.C. best Incom as the sponsor of the Heisman Trophy for the outstanding college footbell player each fall, paid tribute also to former heavyweight boxing champions dresely for Walcott and Floyd Patterson, exmedidleweight champ Faul Pender and noted fighters Charlie Fusari, Ernie Durando and Davey.

During the award ceremonies, Davey went a mock two-number with Fusari and Pender. The retired professionals drew an ovation from the crowd in attendance.

Davey went as given the sport since his retirement 25 years ago.

In his fighting days, Davey set a record which hasn't been broken when he won four straight NCAA hoving

munity College so that he would see more playing time. At Washtenaw, Wilkins continued to gain his confidence and improve on his pitching skills.

pitching skills.
"Every year I played for summer teams in the area and between that and my school experiences I gained a lot of confidence in my abilities," Wilkins

teams in the area and between that and my school experiences I gained a lot of confidence in my abilities," Wilkins said.

His major experiences during the summer league came with various teams including Griffin Sport Shop and Adray Pholo.

Adray Pholo.

Adray Pholo.

He was the said of the said of the Allametrica Annateur Baseball Federation championships several times in Johnstown Pa.

Wilkins is to report to Mesa, Ariz, March 12 where he will play with the Sansata Cubs, a Class A team, on of the lowest rungs in the minors.

"My first reaction came when the Detroit News called and told me I was drafted. I really didn't think anything of it until I was told that I was picked in the first round. That just flipped me in the control of the lappiest days of my life. It's something I've always wanted and this puts me closer to playing in the pros," continued the righthanded pitcher. "I' was a little

crowns, and later earned an Olympic

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Boxing commissioner honored

when he will hopefully be picked up again by the Tigers.

"Twe decided to wait until the June farfit. I want to get the experience at school and continue my education more before I get into baseball," Collier said.
"I was very surprised when I heard that somebody had dratted me. Hopefully in June the Tigers will still want to get me the proper of the properties of the p said.
"He has good control and a good curve. He is not an overpowering pitcher," continued the former baseball coach and now athletic director at RU.
Collier also saw action with LaDuke Roofing of the Detroit Adray League and travled to the circuit's world series several times in the nast year.

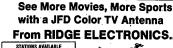
veral times in the past year. At RU, Collier collected a 6-3 overall record in his senior season. He struck out 62 batters and tallied a ,300 batting

verage. "John is a real nice kid. He's the kind

ne comes on strong in the latter inn-ings of the games he pitches," Atkins explained. "He is a very hard worker on the mound."
If Collier had signed he would have reported to Bristol Va. of the Appala-chian League in the Tigers farm sys-tem.

Bill Lajoie, the Tigers' former number one scout and now vice- president of the club, first saw Collier last summer when he was pitching in the Detroit Adray League.

"John is steadily improving and his pitching is getting, faster. We think he will have a good season in junior college." Lajoie said.



high school pitching days, has followed the pitcher ever since.

"He has a good fast ball. He has to learn to pitch, naturally, like any other boy." Hannah sald, "but he has an arm and we are willing to take a chance."

Collier said that he will continue to play for St. Gair Community College in the spring before the draft in June

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crowns, and later earned an Olympic team berth.

As a pro, Dawey scored national television victories over such fighters as like Williams, Rocky Grazians and Carmen Basilito, all one-time champions.

Dawey dropped his first pro bout when he fost to Kid Gavilan in a hattle for the second well-creeding the country of the second well-creeding the country of the second properties well-creeding the raing to he spin a career in business.

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In 1963 he was named to the Michamson of the origin acquired to the second for the world Boxing Association (WRA).

Dawey is one of the founders and first president of the United Sates Boxing Association, which seeks to stimulate interest in boxing by sanctioning U.S. championship bouts. The association also publishes a monthly rating of all American fighters in every weight class. Open 9 to 5-6 Days-Closed Sunday Except by Appointment WE DELIVER

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