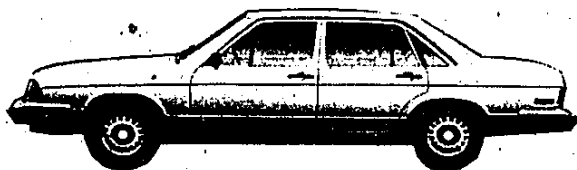


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The 1979 Indianapolis 500 pace car.

## Indy picks '79 Mustang to pace May 500 field

A 1979 Ford Mustang has been selected to pace the 63rd annual running of the Indianapolis 500 next May.

"Mustang paced the Indianapolis 500 just six weeks after its public introduction in 1964, and we're proud that our all-new 1979 Mustang will renew Ford's association with the Indianapolis 500 next spring," W. S. Walla, a Ford Motor Co. vice president and Ford Division general manager, said.

Under development at Ford Motor Co. since last July, the official pace car is equipped with a specially modified 5.0-liter (302-CID) V-8 engine, automatic transmission and Mustang's special handling suspension system.

A three-door hatchback, the black and pewter pace car has a specially designed grill and hood, a non-production T-roof and specially fitted front-and-rear air spoilers.

The exterior is accented with orange-

and-red racing stripes and lettering, while the black cloth-and-vinyl interior has special bucket seats.

"Although our plans haven't been finalized, we are planning to build a limited-edition Mustang similar to the pace car for sale at Ford dealerships prior to next year's race," Walla said.

The 1979 Mustang is the 11th Ford-built car picked to pace the 500 classic, and the first Ford product to start the field since 1968.

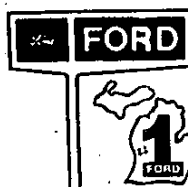
The company's first pace car was a 1932 Lincoln, followed by a Ford V-8 in 1935, a 1946 Lincoln V-12, a 1950 Mercury, a 1953 Ford, a 1957 Mercury, a 1961 Thunderbird, the original Mustang in 1964, a 1966 Comet Cyclone GT and a 1968 Ford Torino.

Two generations of the Ford family have driven pace cars at the Indianapolis 500, beginning with the late Edsel Ford in 1932.

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