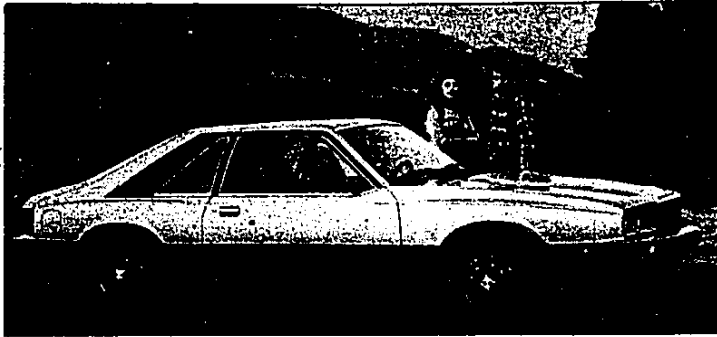


Lincoln-Mercury shows more than cars

2 models for 1979 Mercury restyles



1979 Mercury Capri



1979 Mercury Marquis

Some of the sports world's folk heroes, a unique Ghia Studio show car and Christopher — the famous cougar cat from atop the Lincoln-Mercury sign — will share the spotlight with all of Mercury's 1979 cars at the division's auto show exhibit.

Lincoln-Mercury Sports Panelists Al Kaline, Byron Nelson and Jesse Owens will appear on Saturday and Sunday both weekends of the show and hockey great Gordie Howe will join them on Sunday, Jan. 21.

Animal trainers Pat Derby and Ed Stewart will appear in the exhibit daily with the Lincoln-Mercury cats — Christopher the cougar and Rock-o-shay the Bobcat.

And a special one-of-a-kind "styling study" show car called the Mercury XM will be at the Lincoln-Mercury display.

The two-seater was designed and built by Ford's famous Ghia Studio in Turin, Italy. It's unique feature is a "rumble" seat mounted on the underside of the rear decklid. By raising the rear hatch window and flipping back the decklid, the car can be converted into a three-seater.

The Ghia name long has been synonymous with design excellence. The Ghia studio, purchased by Ford Motor Co. in 1970, believes in quality and limited production at the expense of quantity.

In 1950, for example, the studio created magnificent, specially made bodies for famous foreign chassis such as Delahaye, Bentley and Talbot. In 1970, Ghia designed the Panthera, a limited-production mid-engine sports coupe imported by Ford Motor Co.

The Sports Panel has been in existence since 1967.

Al Kaline, who has been on the panel since its start, retired from the Detroit Tigers in 1974 after becoming one of only

13 baseball players to get more than 3,000 hits. He was recognized as one of the finest when it came to covering the outfield and picking off baserunners with his accurate right arm.

Kaline broke into the Tiger lineup at the beginning of the 1954 season when the team's regular rightfielder was injured. The following season he won the American League batting crown with a .340 average. At the time, he was still nearly two months under voting age, the youngest batting champ in league history at the age of 20.

He won 10 of a possible 11 "Gold Glove" fielding trophies in the 1957-67 period, missing only in 1960.

Gordie Howe, known as "Mr. Hockey" to virtually all serious fans of the sport, has been a member of the Lincoln-Mercury Sports Panel since 1969.

The former Detroit Red Wings' big right winger holds practically every hockey record in the National Hockey League including most games played, most goals, most assists, most points, most All-Star selections and most points in the Stanley Cup playoffs.

In a 25-year career, the longest in the history of the NHL, Howe captured both the Hart Memorial Trophy as the league's most valuable player and the Art Ross Trophy as the league's scoring champion a record six times. He was selected for the NHL's All-Star Team a record 20 times, 11 times on the first squad.

Probably Howe's most astounding record is the 20 consecutive seasons he finished among the top five scorers.

He began his big league career with the Wings in 1946 at the age of 18. He retired

(Continued on page 25)

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