

**Collection #  
M 1411**

**LITTLE 500  
PAPERS, 1951–1975**

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## COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	One half-size manuscript box
COLLECTION DATES:	1951–1975
PROVENANCE:	Raymond Featherstone, Jr.; Indianapolis, IN
RESTRICTIONS:	None
COPYRIGHT:	
REPRODUCTION RIGHTS:	Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained from the Indiana Historical Society.
ALTERNATE FORMATS:	
RELATED HOLDINGS:	The Little 500: The Story of the World's Greatest College Weekend, GV1049.2.L57 S35 1999
ACCESSION NUMBER:	2000.0444
NOTES:	

## HISTORICAL SKETCH

The Little 500 started in 1951 by former IU Foundation president and Indiana University Student Foundation founder Howard "Howdy" Wilcox, Jr. He got the idea one fall semester for the race after seeing some Indiana University students racing their bicycles around Hickory Hall, which reminded him of his father, a former auto-racer and Indianapolis 500 winner (1919). He decided to pitch the idea for a cycling race to the foundation as a way to raise scholarship money for students who worked to pay for school.

Since 1951, the Indiana University Student Foundation has raised over two million dollars in scholarships from the annual race. The race is held each April, about one month before the Indianapolis 500, in Bill Armstrong Stadium at Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana. It was formerly held in IU Memorial Stadium, which was demolished in 1982. The Women's Little 500 began in 1988. Teams are often comprised of fraternities or sororities.

The 1979 film *Breaking Away*, which won an Academy Award for best original screenplay, was based on the race.

### Sources:

Biz Monkie. "Indiana's Little 500: The World's Greatest College Weekend." <<https://crasstalk.com/2012/04/indianas-little-500-the-worlds-greatest-college-weekend/>>.

"IU Student Foundation Little 500." <<https://iusf.indiana.edu/little500/fans.html>>.

"History and Tradition." IU Student Foundation. <<https://iusf.indiana.edu/about/index.html>>.

Howard Wilcox, Jr. Obituary. Accessed online. <<http://hosting-4995.tributes.com/show/Howard-S.-Howdy-Wilcox-34625546>>.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection contains several newspaper articles about the Little 500, mostly from the inaugural event, some from the 25th anniversary; two official programs, one from the first year and one from the 25th running; sheets giving rider information and race rules from the first year; a flyer for a charity party before the race; a press release for AMF Roadmaster bicycles, the standard bicycle type used at the race; and a button from the 25th running.

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1951 Official Program

Rider Information Sheets, 1951

Newspaper Articles, 1951–1975

Charity Benefit Flyer, N.D.

AMF Roadmaster Press Release, 1954

1975 25th Anniversary Special Edition Official  
Program

25th Anniversary Button

### CONTAINER

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Box 1, Folder 2

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Box 1, Folder 4

Box 1, Folder 5

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