

302 Four-Speed Returns

The 1982 Ford Mustang will be available with a powertrain that will again place it in the front rank of high-performance sports cars.

The 5.0-liter (302 cid) V-8 engine mated with a manual four-speed overdrive transmission (a combination first offered when the present Mustang was introduced in the 1979 model year) will again be available after a two-year absence from the Mustang lineup.

"For the past several years, Ford has been totally occupied with the massive task of greatly increasing the fuel-efficiency of the products we offer," said Louis E. Lataif, Ford Motor Company vice president and Ford Division general manager. "The cars and trucks now in our showrooms or in final planning are bringing to Americans unprecedented fuel-efficiency, room, ride and technology. Although our efforts to further increase the efficiency of our products will continue, we can now — once again — devote resources to meeting the demand for cars with greater performance capabilities."

Mr. Lataif pointed out that Ford already has re-entered the world of performance on the track with an International Motorsports Association (IMSA) GT Mustang developed by the company's Special Vehicle Operations and sponsored by the Miller Brewing Company.

Although no match for the Miller Mustang, the 5.0-liter 1982 production Mustang will be potent. And — because of a special camshaft borrowed from marine adaptations of the engine, a larger two-barrel carburetor than the one used on the 1979 V-8, a larger, more-streamlined exhaust system and a dual-inlet low-restriction air cleaner — it will have substantially faster acceleration than the 1979 5.0-liter Mustang.

The 5.0-liter/four-speed drivetrain will be available in all Mustang models:

the L, the GL, the GLX, and a new series, the GT — which will replace the 1981 Cobra series.

(Editor's note: Since the club does not recognize Mustangs produced after 1973, we were a bit undecided about putting this press release in the magazine. But we finally, elected to do so, in part because we know that most Mustang lovers are Ford fans as well and in part because we didn't want to neglect to serve notice that the Ford Motor Company is back into

performance in a big way. It may not be the "Total Performance" that we remember so fondly, but it certainly is better than nothing, which is what we've had in recent times.) Another reason for putting it in is the nice picture Ford PR supplied.

If you find this sort of thing too new to stomach, let us know and we will reconsider our leanings. You might also send in that article you've been writing all this time. We do have to have something to put on each page, you know..)

