

**Floyd, Barbara L.**

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**To:** tberghoff@hotmail.com

**Cc:** Lee, Wade M.

**Subject:** Rocky the Rocket

**Attachments:** Rocky Rocket 1965.pdf

Your question regarding a cartoon figure depicting Rocky the Rocket, the mascot of the University of Toledo, has been referred to me.

I believe the first time such a cartoon figure was used in relation to the sports program was 1965. I do remember seeing a Rocket-like figure carrying a gun on an ROTC publication of the 1940s or 1950s, but I have been unable to locate that image. Attached are covers from several football programs of 1965 that depict Rocky as a cartoon. It appears the first "real" Rocky mascot (that is, someone wearing a Rocky outfit) was in 1967. There is a photograph in the yearbook that year that shows a student with a crude Rocky outfit made out of a sheet. For certain, there was a person who dressed in a costume as Rocky beginning in 1970, which is the first year we have a name for an individual who was officially designated as such.

Please let me know if you have any additional questions regarding our mascot.

Barbara Floyd  
University Archivist  
University of Toledo

# Ohio University

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# Toledo



**October 9, 1965**

**8 p. m. GLASS BOWL STADIUM  
THE UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO**

**OFFICIAL  
PROGRAM  
50¢**