

2012

Collectable Card of Gino Bartali

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Recommended Citation

"Collectable Card of Gino Bartali" (2012). *Bulmash Family Holocaust Collection*. 2014.1.482.
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2012

GINO BARTALI

- No. 227 -
GINO BARTALI
(CYCLING)

Bartali was a fantastic Italian cyclist who began racing competitively in his early 20s and he won his first Giro d'Italia in 1936. The death of his brother that year cast some doubts as to whether or not he would continue but he returned in 1937 to win the title once again! He won the Tour de France in 1938 but the looming shadow of war put his career on hold. During World War II, he risked his life to help protect many Jewish people living in Italy and even had a family living in his cellar to keep them out of harm's way. In 1946, he returned to cycling and won the Giro d'Italia once again and captured his second Tour de France title two years later – a victory that was rumored to have helped prevent a Communist revolt in his home country following the assassination of a party leader. He also had a fierce rivalry with Fausto Coppi.

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