

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

As a member of an American racing family, Michael Argetsinger remembers the earliest days of post-war road racing. Growing up in the race organization at Watkins Glen, he graduated from mowing grass at the circuit to become assistant to the press director at the United States Grand Prix, and later, representative in Europe to the race director. His experience also includes working with the Cooper Car Company during the 1966 Formula One Grand Prix season. After two years of service in the U.S. Army, he began his own racing career in 1965 while still in college. He raced in Europe for 10 years and remains an active driver in the SCCA and vintage racing. He is married and lives in Chicago, Illinois. His critically acclaimed first book, *Walt Hansgen: His Life and the History of Post-War American Road Racing*, published by David Bull Publishing, received a Gold Medal for biography and was named Best of Books for 2006 at the International Automotive Media Awards.



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**Front cover:** Mark Donohue in his Porsche 917/10 at the 1972 Donnybrooke Can-Am race. (Alvis Uptis/Getty Images)

**Back cover, left:** Mark and Roger Penske before the 1974 Canadian Grand Prix. (Don Cox collection)

**Back cover, right:** Mark, the eventual 1973 Can-Am champion, in the Porsche 917-30 at Laguna Seca. (C.R. Racing Memories)

**Spine:** Mark in the pits in 1973. (Hal Crocker)



ALSO BY MICHAEL ARGETSINGER:  
**Walt Hansgen**  
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# MARK DONOHUE

TECHNICAL EXCELLENCE AT SPEED  
MICHAEL ARGETSINGER / FOREWORD BY ROGER PENSKE



To a generation of fans in the 1960s and 1970s, Mark Donohue embodied a new, uniquely American spirit in motor racing. Donohue was not only blindingly fast—he was also smart, with a background in engineering and a unique talent for studying and setting up a race car. Together with his like-minded team owner, Roger Penske, he brought a new level of technical sophistication and preparation to nearly every type of American racing, from sports cars to the Indianapolis 500.

After years of success in amateur sports-car racing, Donohue's professional career took off in 1966 when he drove a factory Ford GT40 at Le Mans and a Lola T70 for Penske in the Can-Am Challenge. He arrived on the public stage at a time when American racing was attracting a wider audience through exciting new series such as the Can-Am and the Trans-Am Sedan Championship, which he would soon dominate, driving Chevrolet Camaros and AMC Javelins. Donohue's greatest triumphs would come in the early 1970s: In 1972 he won the Indy 500, and a year later he captured the Can-Am title in the overpowering Porsche 917-30. After a brief retirement he returned to racing in Formula One, only to die following an accident during practice for the Austrian Grand Prix in 1975.

In the first full biography of Mark Donohue, author Michael Argetsinger tells the story of racing's ultimate driver-engineer, one who set the standard for generations to come. He also explains how Donohue's life and career were shaped by his friends, family, and fellow drivers, as well as by the rapid changes in technology and competition that swept through racing during his time.

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\$39.95 / £29.99

More than 30 years after his death, Mark Donohue remains one of the best known and most fondly remembered figures in American motor racing. Donohue's record as a driver was spectacular: He won national sports-car championships as an amateur, and later, the popular Trans-Am sedan series driving both Chevrolet Camaros and AMC Javelins. Though best known as a road racer, his versatility also made him competitive on ovals, with his most famous victory coming at the Indianapolis 500 in 1972. A year later he won the Canadian-American Challenge Cup (Can-Am) title at the wheel of the iconic Porsche 917-30, as well as the inaugural International Race of Champions (IROC) in early 1974. His death in 1975 following a practice accident at Formula One's Austrian Grand Prix stunned the entire sports world.

Donohue's good looks and friendly demeanor made him a favorite with fans and the media, who dubbed him "Captain Nice." But close friends, teammates, and fellow drivers knew these qualities belied an intensely competitive nature and a determination to win at all costs. And in an era of rapid technological change and ever-increasing competition, Donohue also became widely recognized for his ability to apply what he experienced on the track to the testing and preparation of each car he drove. While this partly reflected his formal training in engineering at Brown University, a naturally analytical mind and a relentless work ethic instilled by his family were even more important. This unique package of on- and off-track skills allowed Donohue to make the most of cars with inherent disadvantages, such as AMC's Trans-Am Javelin. And in a superior vehicle such as Porsche's 917, the result was what one writer called "the ultimate man-machine combination in the history of motorsport."

Drawing upon years of research and interviews, author Michael Argetsinger re-creates the full scope of Mark Donohue's remarkable life and career, from his earliest childhood ambitions to his greatest triumphs. Along the way he includes observations from such great drivers as Mario Andretti, George Follmer, David Hobbs, Parnelli Jones, and Sam Posey, all of whom raced alongside Donohue. He also goes behind the scenes to get further insight from Donohue's engineers and crew, as well as friends, family, and fans. **Mark Donohue** is the ultimate portrait of an American racing legend.