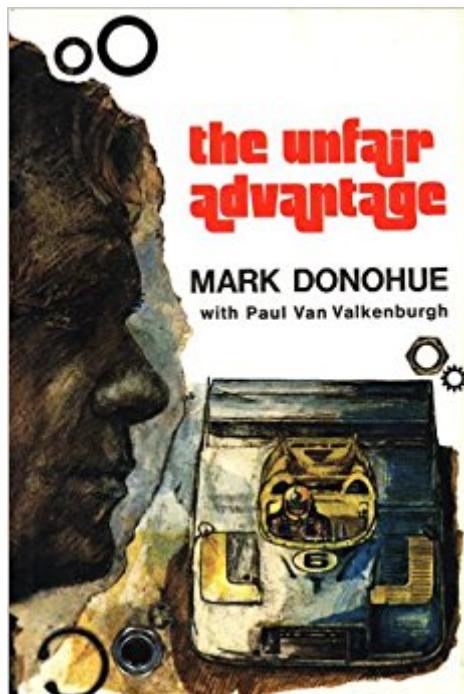


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The Unfair Advantage



Synopsis

In 1974, Mark Donohue took a year off from driving at the height of his racing career to write "The Unfair Advantage," a candid and revealing book about his journey through the world of auto racing -- from amateur SCCA races in his own '57 Corvette to winning the Indy 500 in Roger Penske's McLaren M16. This new edition contains over 60 additional photographs and comments from people who worked and raced with Donohue during the 1960s and early 1970s.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

...Donohue's book is a must-read. -- LA Car, December 2000...a gripping history of sports cars and road racing. -- Los Angeles Times, December 6, 2000...must-read titles. -- AutoWeek, November 20-26, 2000...the return of The Unfair Advantage means everything good -- Excellence, April 2001Bentley Publishing brings back a book to introduce a singular American motorsports hero to a new generation of racing fans. -- Roundel, February 2001Donohue tells . . . the story of how racing became a science as well as a sport. -- Automobile, February 2001Donohue's storytelling evokes a time when modestly funded (and talented) guys made good. -- Sports Car Market, November 2000Highly recommended. -- 911 & Porsche World, December 2000Several car books have been released recently, and one that really caught our eye is The Unfair Advantage... -- Grassroots Motorsports, December 2000The 25th anniversary edition of The Unfair Advantage brings back the long-sought-after title and adds more than 100 new photos --Hot Rod, January 2001

Mark Donohue gained fame in the '60s and '70s as a maverick breed of auto racer who used scientific and engineering skill to win his races. From winning amateur races in his college days as a mechanical engineering student at Brown to taking the checkered flag at the 1972 Indianapolis 500, Mark Donohue strove to understand the dynamics behind high performance, and then perfected his skill in extracting it. He also was a winning co-driver of the 24-hour sports car enduro at Daytona, and he set a world's speed record at Talladega. Of course, racing has been called "the cruel sport;" Mark suffered many losses and disappointments too, both public and private. His life ended tragically at the age of 38 after a 1975 Formula One accident in Austria. But his legacy remains timeless. In fact, every successful driver today owes a debt of knowledge to Mark Donohue's pioneering work in applying science to speed.

This book is a very insightful collection of what transpired during the development of so many race cars over the years. It is from the view of Mark Donahue and captures his drive to always find an unfair advantage in racing. I didn't give it 5 stars because it lacks something. I cannot put my finger on what it lacks, but it is a little dry. The stories are very well written, but the flow between cars, series and projects seems to jump around making it not flow very well. That may be due to that is how the cars, series and projects were blended together which would be understandable. The overall content is excellent and you find out how hard they worked for that advantage. That is what seems to be lacking in many of today's racing series in America. Unfair advantages are harder to find as the series regulators strive to keep those advantages to a minimum for the sake of safety or leveling the playing field.

I liked the book. It was well written and full of detail of the racing world. I was very disappointed in the Penske/ Donohue relationship. They were supposed to be the elite team in racing. The book didn't lead me to believe that. It was surprising and a somewhat a shock to see that they had to start from ground zero every time they went to track. For instance, setups were always off. It's like they didn't learn anything from one outing to the next. Again, good book for a racing enthusiast. Just disappointed in the main characters.

Great book. Enjoyable read with lots of terrific stories and insight into racing in the 50s/60s/70s. I even learned a fair amount about vehicle dynamics from it.

I have not read this as it was a gift for a friend who knew Donohue and his history. He read it almost

straight through and enjoyed it very much. Donohue was an excellent racer with a great mind. I plan on reading it some day. It was a great gift for a man who knows the history and was recovering from open heart surgery! I am extremely pleased to have been able to find this hard to find book on - Thanks! I also purchased as an after-thought - Mark Donohue - His Life in Photographs - which again captured Donohue's history in pictures with captions - I think my friend enjoyed this one better - another great find on ! Thanks!

The Unfair Advantage is one of the seminal books on motor racing in the United States as it developed in the sixties and seventies. Hugely interesting and important as an in depth view of the development of racing as seen through the eyes of Mark Donohue, one of the early technicians of motor racing. The simple solutions that were created from basic trial, error, retrial and success are at once astounding and as plain as the nose on your face. Things that we take for granted in racing now were developed as 'unfair advantages' by Donohue and Penske as they struggled to develop winning cars in TransAm, CanAm, Formula 1, Usac Champ cars, and a variety of other venues. The lessons learned here have served many racers well over the years and the inside takes by Donohue on the movers and shakers of that time period are enlightening to say the least. Unfortunately, we lost Mark to a racing accident years ago, but we have these words to remember him by as well as his great record of on track success. A great read. I highly recommend it.

What a talented driver and engineer.. . The Captain owes a lot of his initial success to Mark and he has been quick to acknowledge this. As we all know, The Unfair Advantage is just straight-up outworking the other guy. Unobtainium, indeed.

Mark Donohue was one of America's best drivers and won in many different racing series including the Trans-Am, Can-Am, USRRC, FIA endurance racing, Indy cars and NASCAR. This book offers in detail and in Mark's own words his humble beginnings and finally his triumphs when he joined Roger Penske and became a pivotal part of one of the most formidable racing teams in history. It also offers an insight into a complex and sometimes insecure man despite his many racing victories. The thing I liked most about the book was each chapter concerned Mark's detailed analysis of each particular car that he drove and what it took to make it a winner or in a very few cases why it never won. It is very well written and immersive with some great photographs, I highly recommend it to any racing fan.

For years I tried to find a gently used copy of this racing classic. It is highly sought after by those in racing circles and it is quite expensive. I finally came to my senses and purchased this special reprint edition. I was always a Mark Donohue fan when he was alive and loved reading about his rise in road racing from his humble start with Roger Penske to his heights at Indy. The book chronicals each step along the way as he learned the art, but also the science of racing. This is "must" reading for anyone remotely interested in the sport of road racing.

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