



**1972 Indianapolis 500® Winner**  
**#66 Mark Donohue/Sunoco McLaren M16B**

Penske Racing and Mark Donohue began their quest to win the Indianapolis 500® in 1969, when they finished 7<sup>th</sup> and Donohue took Rookie of the Year honors. They finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in 1970 and dropped out from the lead with a broken transmission a third of the way through the 500 in 1971. In 1972 Penske and Donohue came back to the Brickyard®, with Gary Bettenhausen in the second Penske car. A rivalry had developed between Penske Racing and McLaren, because both were extremely professional teams running the latest McLaren Indy race cars. There was also a rivalry between Jim Travers and Frank Coon of Traco, who built Penske's engines, and Herb Porter, who built engines for McLaren. Donohue and McLaren's Peter Revson always raced hard against each other because they had been competing since their racing careers began. Although Revson qualified his McLaren in 2<sup>nd</sup> with a speed of 192.885 mph, one spot ahead of Donohue's 3<sup>rd</sup>-place 191.408 mph, neither had anything for Bobby Unser's Eagle, which posted a four-lap qualifying speed of 195.940 mph. At the start of the 1972 "500", B. Unser led from Revson until Revson's gearbox failed on Lap 23. B. Unser held a large lead over Bettenhausen in 2<sup>nd</sup>, with Donohue in 3<sup>rd</sup>. On Lap 31 B. Unser's engine failed in the Northeast Turn, and he coasted to his pits. Bettenhausen's McLaren led the race, with Jerry Grant in 2<sup>nd</sup> place and Donohue in 3<sup>rd</sup>. Bettenhausen dominated the race, leading 138 laps, until his McLaren slowed on the 176<sup>th</sup> lap, then stopped six laps later with ignition trouble. Now Grant was 1<sup>st</sup>, with Donohue running in 2<sup>nd</sup>. But a cut tire brought Grant in to pit on Lap 187, and during his stop the refueling nozzle from team mate B. Unser's car was connected to Grant's Eagle. While Grant was in the pits, Donohue passed Grant, whose bad luck was not over, because a competitor protested Grant for illegally accepting fuel from a team mate's fuel supply. The protest was upheld, and Grant was stripped of all laps run after his final pit stop, dropping him to 12<sup>th</sup> place in the finishing order. Mark Donohue won the 1972 Indianapolis 500® at a speed of 162.962 mph, with Al Unser 2<sup>nd</sup>. Donohue's race speed record would stand for twelve years, until it was broken by Rick Mears in 1984. Donohue's win began a tradition of victory at the Brickyard® for Penske Racing, which as of 2005 has won the Indianapolis 500® thirteen times, most recently in 2003.

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Started  
Finished  
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