

# PRESSE-MITTEILUNG

PORSCHE

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Motor Sport

PORSCHE'S PARTNERS FOR THE 1972 CAN-AM SERIES: PENSKE-DONOHUE

Roger Penske, 34, America's ambitious, aggressive racing stable owner, and his top driver Mark Donohue, 34, will be Porsche's battle partners for the 1972 Can-Am series. Following a series of test drives Porsche has signed a two-year contract with the Penske team which could change the story in the Can-Am series: technology from Zuffenhausen will now, in a concentrated effort, come to grips with the heretofore-winning big bore favorites.

The Porsche team for the 1972 Can-Am series was introduced today in New York, the home base of the Porsche Audi Division of Volkswagen of America, the US importer. The rumors that have been going around in the press have this time proved true: Porsche has contracted the successful Roger Penske team. The participation in the American series is then an omen: an American stable will now campaign, with an American driver, the fastest German car to try to break the supremacy of the big bore American engines.

Roger Penske - a byword in American motor sport

To introduce Roger Penske to Americans would be like introducing motor racing to Indianapolis. And his name also rings well in Europe. The former racing driver and businessman of today, who is a successful Porsche dealer as well, has been making headlines with his racing stable for years. With an outsider product, he rolled over the established favorites in the popular sedan races of the Trans-Am series. In this year's Indianapolis, he literally left the competition at the starting grid with his driver Mark Donohue. And in the Manufacturers Championship, although he didn't win against Porsche, he was certainly to be reckoned with in his splendidly prepared Ferrari.

Penske means in America good management, excellent preparation, and characteristic American shrewdness. These attributes were not overlooked in Zuffenhausen when it came to selecting a top American team to contract. Furthermore, Roger Penske treasures Porsche qualities in his own right - through his own experience as a successful Porsche dealer and former racing driver, who had his first great successes racing Porsches in the late fifties.

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## PORSCHE

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Questioned for his opinion of Porsche, Penske answered; "It's exactly the same today as in the past - the calibre of technical dependability is astounding. Mark Donohue will sit in his car with full confidence, just as I sat in my Porsche Spyder RS with absolute confidence."

### The quiet but fast Mark Donohue

For years Roger Penske's driver, Mark Donohue is counted as one of the best drivers in America today. The 34 year old all-around man is truly at home behind every wheel. After his successful start in sedan racing, he made his debut in sports cars, at Indianapolis, and this fall in Formula I, all with distinction. After driving tests a short time ago in the Porsche 917/10, the forerunner of next year's Can-Am car, development chief Helmuth Bott had this to say about Donohue: "He oriented himself in the shortest time, and was almost immediately able to give us relevant, valuable tips about the car. We are delighted to work with such a driver."

### A work-filled winter

Zuffenhausen is still reserved with information over their upcoming Can-Am car. Doctor of Engineering Ernst Fuhrmann, chief of technology in the top executive group at Porsche, says at this stage: "The chassis of the Type 917/10 is now established. Over the course of the winter, however, we will be involved in an intensive work schedule testing amongst other things different motor variations, proving the merits of each. The car that Mark Donohue will bring to the start, then, will tell the final story."

The 1972 Can-Am racing series will open with the race at Mosport, Canada, on June 11th. With Porsche challenging the established McLarens and Lolas, the series will be the most exciting to date.

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