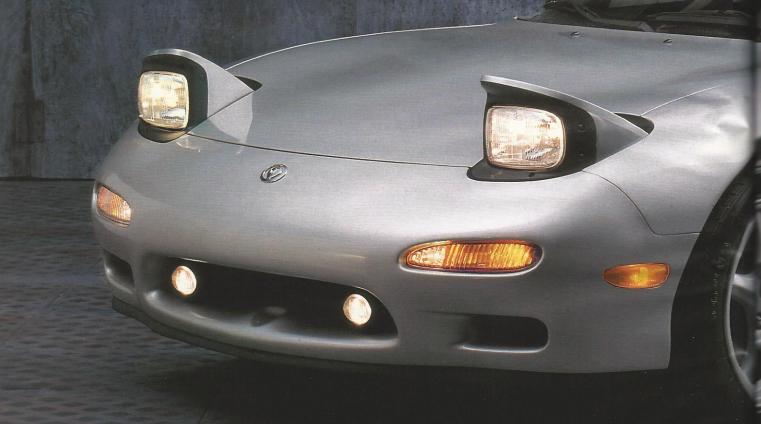


DLAYBOY'S CAR OF THE YEAR



It's fitting that the third annual Playboy's Car of the Year award and accompanying bronze statuette (pictured above left) go to Mazda for its totally redesigned RX-7. Why? Because in our opinion, this aerodynamic two-seater is a technical tour de force that's lighter, more powerful and more aggressively styled than its predecessors. "Instead of making this coupe bigger and heavier," said PLAYBOY Contributing Automotive Editor Ken Gross, "Mazda's engineers painstakingly trimmed every unnecessary ounce to make it lighter and faster." Under the hood, for example, is a compact, twin sequentially turbocharged, 255-hp rotary engine that's similar to the one that

