



PLAYBOY'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

John Davis, producer and host of the PBS show *Motorweek '93*, comments that the new Mazda RX-7 "reminds me that sports cars are supposed to be exciting, with the singular purpose of commanding the road."



won the classic Le Mans 24-hour race for Mazda in 1991. With its power-to-weight ratio, the \$32,000 RX-7 clocks a zero-to-60 time well under six seconds and reaches a top speed of 160 mph. What's more, a race-inspired, four-wheel double-wishbone suspension and high-performance V-rated tires help the RX-7 stick like a slot car in the corners. Standard features include cruise control, power windows and mirrors, a leather steering wheel and a driver's side air bag. And there's even an optional touring package, which includes leather seats, a power sunroof and a Bose Acoustic Wave stereo. And every RX-7 is covered by a free roadside assistance program.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY RICHARD IZUI