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BOBBY UNSER

Shakespeare must have had Bobby Unser in mind when he wrote that famous line, "Consistency thou art a jewel."

If consistency is the name of the game, then Unser, driver of the Olsonite Eagle (Car #2) won it a long time ago.

Few, if any, race drivers in USAC history can match his record for finishing races in at least as good position as he started, and only two other USAC pilots, A. J. Foyt and Mario Andretti, exceed his total of points in all-time USAC standings.

Since 1963, when the lean, handsome member of the world's most famous racing family began traveling the USAC circuit, he has competed in 128 races, finishing no worse than 10th in 122 of them, and, get this, no worse than fifth in 52 of those 122.

In 58 of the races he started in the top five, he also finished in the top five in 52, while in 88 of the races he started in the top 10, he was among the top 10 finishers in 122.

Since 1965, he has been just about as consistent in his ranking among USAC drivers in year-end point standings, including, of course, 1968, when he won it all, both the Indianapolis 500 and the USAC championship.

In 1965, he ranked 7th; in 1966, he was sixth; in 1967, he was 3rd; in 1968, he was 1st; in 1969, he was again 3rd, and in 1970, he was second, behind his brother Al.

Not to mention Pike's Peak, where he practically owns the course. Where, he not only won nine of the 12 championship car events from 1956 to 1968, but

still holds the record of 11:549 minutes. He also has won both the sports car division and the stock car division once each at his favorite peak.

In the 500 at Indy, he has finished in the top 10 five of the eight years he has competed, with a third place finish in 1970 his best mark other than the victory he put together there in 1968.

Oddly enough, he has never won the pole at Indy although he has started in that favorite spot in 18 USAC races, including both of the state-side USAC races in the 1971 season, at Phoenix and Trenton.

Bobby came by his racing instincts naturally. His father, Louis, was a race driver, and all four sons followed in his footsteps. An older brother, Jerry, was killed in a racing accident, and a younger brother, Louis, while a sometime race driver, spends most of his time building engines for race cars. Only Al, also younger than the 39-year-old Bobby, competes with him on the tracks today.

This is Bobby's 20th year of racing, and during his career he has competed in virtually every type of racing - Indy cars, stock cars, Grand Prix, sports cars, midgets, and, of course, hill climbing.

The 6 ft., 170 lb. driving star lives in Albuquerque, N. M. He is the father of four children, the oldest of whom is 14-year-old Bobby, Jr.

A private pilot, he owns and flies his own plane, a helpful hobby in his racing career as well as in the automotive parts business he operates in partnership with his brother Al in Albuquerque.

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