

# SPORTS

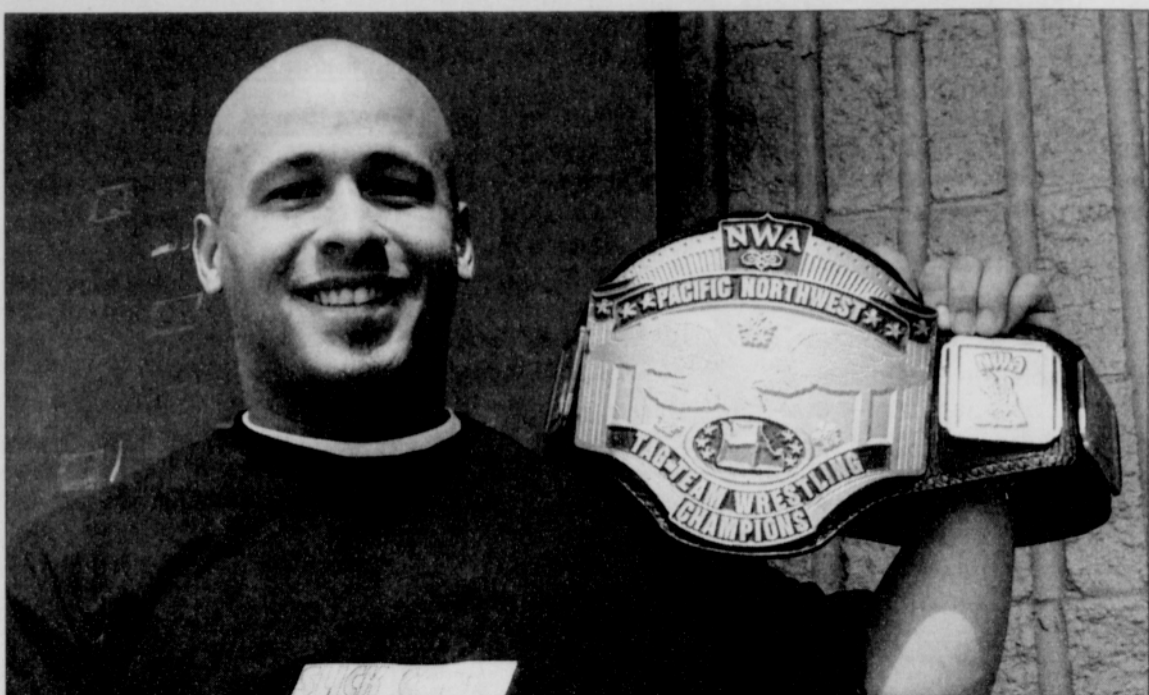


PHOTO BY NICOLE HOOPER/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

'Slick Cedric' shows off one of his wrestling championship belts.

## Portland Observer Auto Review

### 2005 Nissan Murano SE FWD



The Nissan Murano is a good example of a crossover vehicle. It was designed to haul cargo like a sport utility, but drive like a car. With stylish exterior shapes and a comfortable cabin that accommodates five, midsize Murano is a fun-to-drive wagon. The base price of this vehicle is \$29,450.

The futuristic look is backed by sporty performance. The Murano is powered by Nissan's beefy 3.5 liter V6, the same engine found in the 350z sports car, putting out 245 horsepower. It comes with a continuously variable transmission, a high-tech automatic that's smooth and responsive while offering superior gas mileage within its class. Murano's road-tuned suspension offers smooth and sporty handling.

The cabin layout offers a pair of bolstered buckets in the front

*Tested Vehicle Information: Price: \$33,010; Engine: 3.5 liter DOHC V6; Transmission: Xtronic CVT (Continuously Variable Transmission) with manual shift mode*

flanking a large console with covered recesses to stow gear large items like a purse. On the second row a bench is designed to seat two comfortably but can hold three. Seatback splits and reclines or folds down to expand the cargo area.

All Murano models come with features above the class standard. Standard equipment on all three versions includes dual-zone automatic temperature control, a high-

power AM/FM/CD audio system, power windows with auto up/down feature in front, keyless remote entry, reclining rear seats, and 18-inch alloy wheels.

The Murano SE comes with a firmer sport-tuned suspension, a manual shift mode, styled alloy wheels and dark-silver lower bumpers. High-intensity xenon headlights, which have a manual leveling feature, are standard on the SE and optional on the SL.

## Wrestler Goes to Work

One of few blacks in sport

BY NICOLE HOOPER

THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

"Slick Cedric" is a local professional wrestler who takes to the mat everywhere from flea markets in St. Johns to championship tournaments in California. He recently won his match at the Portland Northwest Pro Wrestling tournament, even if it was by disqualification.

Cedric was having a fairly easy time of it versus "The DeeVaa" when DeeVaa's partner, Gentleman George Michael, interfered by trying to distract the referee and his opponent used an illegal move called "The Royal Flush."

Those interesting events are what make many people stay at home on Monday night to watch World Wrestling Entertainment. Unlike other professional wrestlers, Cedric didn't wrestle in high school; he didn't have fantasies as a child of becoming a great wrestler but six years ago he just happened to be at the right place at the right time.

"I got pulled into it," he said. "There was a tryout for a new federation in Seattle area and a friend took me with him to an audition. I just happened to be there and decided to try out."

Slick Cedric does not reveal his actual name. Under advisement of his mentor, he will not reveal his age either. The reason is unknown. Maybe it's for fear of age discrimi-

nation or to hoard off the many women fans he sees cheering him on.

Cedric who is black and German is from Santa Rosa, Calif. He relocated Portland only two months ago but had already made a name for himself in the Pacific Northwest. Being one of the few African-

*Charisma is necessary. It's almost as important as your moves and technique.*

—'Slick' Cedric

American wrestlers in Oregon has its perks.

"I keep real busy because wrestling federations want diversity in the ring," said Cedric. After commuting to Portland many times a month, he felt it would just be better to move to Portland. Seattle apparently has a limited wrestling scene. Portland has had active wrestling entertainment for over 30 years.

Cedric simply wants to be the best wrestler he can be; at 5 feet 7 inches tall and 200 pounds he is smaller than the average wrestler.

"Most wrestlers are over six feet tall and over 200 pounds," he said.

Luckily for him, there is a wrestling federation for people of his size. In 2004, Cedric won an Oregon tag team competition. A tag-team match consists of four wrestlers comprised of two teams.

He tries to keep fit with cardio

exercise and weight lifting 4 times a week, but his downfall is eating too much food.

"I like to eat, but the most important thing is that you stay in shape," Cedric said.

For aspiring wrestlers, Cedric stresses the important to physically train and to watch videos of

other wrestlers to learn the craft. In addition to the physical preparation, Cedric feels it's important to have charisma.

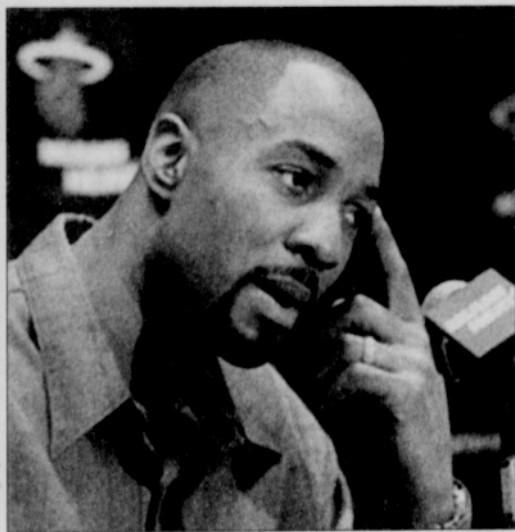
"Charisma is necessary. It's almost as important as your moves and technique," he said

To pay the bills, Cedric is a server at an Aloha steakhouse but has an associate degree in computer repair.

After his wrestling days are over, he wants to work in promotions or advertising within the wrestling federation.

Slick Cedric is just one of the 10 wrestlers that meet at the Sandy Barr's Flea Mart, 7220 N. Burlington Ave. in St. Johns every Tuesday at 8 p.m. On June 5, he will return for another PNPW tournament, which will be held at the Milwaukee Elks Lodge. For more information, visit [www.pnpw.net](http://www.pnpw.net).

## Mourning Donates Salary to Charity



Miami Heat's backup center and former All-Star Alonzo Mourning is getting accolades for donating his entire season's salary to charities.

Donating his minimum salary of \$1 million, \$300,000 will go to organizations that promote literacy and education for underprivileged youth in Miami, as well as providing food to poor kidney dialysis patients.

Other donations will go toward charities that provide food to poor kidney dialysis patients. Mourning once received a kidney transplant, interrupting this career in December 2003.

Mourning said his hope is to help publicize the work being done by these organizations.

Alonzo Mourning

## Las Vegas Makes All-Star Bid

Las Vegas could be the home court for the 2007 NBA All-Star Game if a bid put out by the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority goes through.

Tim Frank, spokesman for the NBA, said the league is looking at other cities too, but wouldn't tell which ones they were.

He said for the game to come to Las Vegas, the casinos would have to take the game off their sports books.

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