

Portland Observer Auto Review News and reviews on new motor vehicles

2006 Mercedes Benz E350

BY KATHLEEN CARR

The E350 replaces the E320 for 2006 with a new 3.5-liter V6 and a 7-speed automatic transmission. Mercedes states it best — the E350 design has one purpose — “to treat the senses.” The E350 has a sleek and grand design inside and out, a pleasing blend of ride and handling, and sophisticated safety features to protect its passengers.

The E350 Sedan is equipped with a standard 3.5-liter, V6, 268-horsepower engine that achieves 19-mpg in the city and 27-mpg on the highway. A 7-speed automatic



Tested Vehicle Information: Price: \$54,100; Engine: 3.5 liter 24 valve Aluminum V6; Transmission: Driver Adaptive 7-speed Automatic w/Touch Shift

transmission with overdrive is standard, and a 5-speed automatic transmission with overdrive is optional. Mercedes says the wider spread of gear ratios of the seven-speed com-

bines with the increased efficiency of the new V6 to improve fuel economy. The E350 feels downright athletic under full throttle.

The interior has well-appointed

cabin features; a roomy interior, comfortable seat, the dash is trimmed with wood accents, top-grade materials and nicely dampened controls. Two adults can eas-

ily fit in the backseat with plenty of legroom.

The suggested retail price is \$50,050. There a wide range of optional equipment to select from

such as; Lighting Package; Bi-xenon active lighting and headlamp washers (\$990), AMG Sport Package; sport suspension, AMG-design front & rear aprons, 18" AMG wheels, dual chrome exhaust tips, and AMG sport bumper (\$4,950), Sunroof Package; power tilt/sliding glass sunroof and power rear window sunshade (\$1,500) and 6-Disc CD Changer (\$430).

The Mercedes Benz E350 is by far one of my top picks for a luxury vehicle that will feel the senses of a driver. I would like to see the AMG Sport Package and 6-Disc CD Changer be a part of the standard features on this vehicle.

SPORTS



Albert Pujols blasts a 2-out, 0-1 pitch for a 3-run home run in the ninth inning that gave the Cardinals a 5-4 victory in Game 5.

St. Louis Stays Alive in Stunner

Ninth inning home run defeats Astros

(AP) — They were perched atop the dugout steps, ready to race onto the field for a wild celebration.

Only one out to go for the Houston Astros to reach their first World Series. Only one problem — it was Albert Pujols.

And with one mighty swing, Pujols saved St. Louis by hitting a

stunning three-run homer off Brad Lidge in the ninth inning as the Cardinals rallied for a 5-4 victory Monday night in Game 5 of the NL championship series.

“I just couldn’t believe I did it,” Pujols said. “Couldn’t be better than this.”

Pujols’ shot over the train tracks high above the left-field wall sent the series back to St. Louis for Game 6 on Wednesday night, with Mark Mulder set to face Houston’s Roy Oswalt. The Cardinals also staved off the wrecking ball at Busch Stadium, scheduled for demolition as

soon as their season is over.

One strike from ecstasy before David Eckstein’s ninth-inning single, the Astros dropped to an agonizing 0-5 with a chance to clinch the NLCS.

One moment, Minute Maid Park was buzzing. The next, it was silent.

“It was devastating. We thought we were going to the World Series. We were there,” Lance Berkman said. “Obviously, it was a high to a low, and it wasn’t much fun.”

After winning pitcher Jason Isringhausen closed it with two innings of scoreless relief,

shocked fans filed quietly out of the ballpark.

They came to see something they had never seen before, their hometown heroes advancing to the World Series. Instead, they saw another kind of history.

It was only the second time in postseason history that a team facing elimination and trailing in the ninth inning hit a go-ahead home run, according to the Elias Sports Bureau. The other was Dave Henderson’s homer for Boston off the Angels’ Donnie Moore in Game 5 of the 1986 ALCS.

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NBA Players Expected to Dress Better

League tries to improve on casual image

(AP) — There will be no more dress down days in the NBA.

The league announced in a memo to teams on Monday that a minimum dress code will go into effect at the start of the regular season on Nov. 1.

Players will be expected to wear business casual attire whenever they participate in team or league activities, including arriving at games, leaving games and making promotional or other appearances.

“If they’re trying to change the image of league, that’s cool,” Suns forward Shawn Marion said.

While the league may be trying to present a better image to its corporate partners, some of its players fear that they may lose out on the core fan base.

“We don’t really sell to big business,” Suns guard Raja Bell said. “We sell to kids and people who are



Allen Iverson of the Philadelphia 76ers would not pass the NBA's new dress code with the clothes he wore in this file photo.

into the NBA hip-hop world. They may be marketing to the wrong people with this.”

Some teams already have their own dress code in place.

Portland coach Nate McMillan

is known for his strict rules, including bans on headbands and on cell phones on the team bus.

It’s important that the players understand they have to respect the game,” McMillan said in Au-

gust. “They have to respect the league. And they have to respect the fans. You must be a professional at all times.”

Players will no longer be able to wear sleeveless shirts, shorts and t-shirts. Chains, pendants or medallions would not be allowed over the player’s clothes and it’s a no-no for sunglasses while indoors.

Headphones, other than on the team bus or plane, or in the team locker room, are outlawed. Also jerseys and baseball caps will no longer be acceptable attire for post-game press conferences.

“I think there needs to be some style improvement but at the same time it has to be with in reasons,” Timberwolves forward Kevin Garnett said.

Players will also now be required to wear a sport coat on the bench when they are not in uniform. The NBA already requires its coaches to wear sport coats, dress shirts, slacks and shoes on the bench.

“I think it is appropriate, definitely, on the bench,” Marion said. “I think you should be in a nice shirt and slacks.”

Vikings Stun Montana State with 44-41 win

Junior Eric Azorr made a 40-yard field goal as time expired to lift Portland State to a 44-41 upset of No. 9 Montana State in a Big Sky Conference game Saturday evening at PGE Park.

With the game tied at 41-41, Azorr missed a 43-yard field goal that would have given the Vikings the lead with 1:28 remaining. The PSU defense, however, would give Azorr a chance to redeem himself.

After Montana State moved to the Viking 42-yard line, senior linebacker Joey King sacked Bobcat quarterback Travis Lulay and junior linebacker D.J. Robinson recovered the resulting fumble.

After a series of plays, PSU got to the MSU 23, setting-up Azorr’s game-winning kick.

The Vikings return to action Saturday to host Northern Arizona. Kickoff is set for 6:05 p.m. at PGE Park.

Portland Fight Official for Rose Garden Arena

Undeclared Light Welterweight Champion Floyd Mayweather Jr. will headline a Nov. 19 HBO Championship Boxing event “Pound for Pound King - Battle of Champions” at the Rose Garden.

Mayweather, universally recognized as the best pound for pound boxer in the world, will face former 2-time World Champion Shamba Mitchell on this very special night of boxing at the Rose Garden.

The fight card was made official Friday after rumors of the bout circulated for days.

Also featured on the evening’s undercard bout is the sole 2004 U.S. Olympic Gold Medalist Andre Ward.

Tickets are priced at \$350, \$250, \$100, \$65 and \$30 and can be purchased at the Rose Quarter Box Office or all Ticketmaster outlets.



The undefeated Mayweather Jr. has successfully defended his title 14 times and recorded 23 KO’s in his 34 wins.

“The Little Big Man” as Mitchell is known, a skilled boxer with 31 KO’s to his credit, has won 25 of his last 27 bouts, with those two losses at the hands of highly regarded former world champion Kostya Tszyu, who had made 11 straight title defenses.

This will mark the second time within a three-year period that Portland has hosted a major professional boxing event. The first was Sept. 7, 2002, when the preeminent boxer of that time, Roy Jones Jr. challenged Clinton Woods of England. Jones Jr. landed a sixth-round TKO on Woods which was also held at the Rose Garden in front of 14,000 fans.



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with helping problems like yours. We make every attempt possible to get you back on the job safely as soon as possible — often within a few days. This is obviously beneficial not only to you but your company as well. It is not uncommon for a workmen’s compensation back surgery to run \$100,000. I’m sure

your employer would just as soon not have expenses like that. Speak to your employer today about having a Chiropractic consultation. If you have had a lifting injury or suffer from pain, why don’t you call us today. A life of suffering is indeed a wasted life. Don’t let it be yours.

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