# Portland Observer Auto Review

### Mercedes Benz 2006 **ML 350 SUV**

**Tested Vehicle** information: Price: \$48,825; Engine: 3.5 Liter V6; Transmission; 7G-Tronic automatic.

BY KATHLEEN CARR

Seven years ago Mercedes-Benz popularized the luxury sport-utility class with its ML 320, its first product built in the U.S. since the early 1900's. M Class SUVs from Mercedes score a to a rigid unibody platform.



makeover due in the 2006. Com- unibody construction with iso- American individual or family pared to previous M Class wag- lated front and rear sub frames, and the height makes it easier ons, the new generation is almost a technique that emphasizes to get in and out of. six inches longer and switches high strength and low weight,

The ML 350 is designed to signimprove accommodation of hold five passengers. The those larger than the average

from body-on-frame construction which reduces the overall 7G-tronic shifter, full-time four- age which includes trim package height. The re-proportioned de- wheel drive (4WD) and four-wheel (6,150), and many more options,

traction control with Hill Start Assist (HSA). A new 3.5-liter V6 for ML350 nets 268 hp, while ML500 with a 5.0-liter V8 runs at 302 hp. Mercedes Benz made sure that its standard package was full of power, luxury and entertainment equipment, in the past customers were unsatisfied by the design of the first ML

The ML 350 offered plenty of passenger room and comfortably while driving. It has outstanding safety features for it passengers which Mercedes Benz has a renowned commitment to occupant safety. It maneuvers well and provides a sense of stability while driving. The base price starts at \$39,750, but don't stop there. The ML 350 comes with several option packages to add like: Comfort Package (\$1,450), AMG Sport-Standard equipment includes the Package (\$4,500), Premium Pack-



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# SPORTS

The men's basketball team at Portland Community College has brought in talent and results after Coach Wayne Mendezona's widely known Quick Handle basketball camps and clinics.

# **PCC Teams** Battle at Cascade

A full schedule of games is scheduled this winter for both men and women in the new gymnasium on the Portland Community College Cascade Campus in north Portland.

Both teams are off to good starts. New Head Coach Wayne Mendezo, widely known for this Quick Handle basketball campus and clinics, leads the men's team.

Women's team Head Coach Rob Pridemore is looking to continue to build a program that won only 2 games in the two years year and this year's team is well





team won nine games in his first prior to his arrival. Last year's on pace to eclipse that.

games this weekend in the Portland tion, go to the school website at Crossover Tournament at the PCC pcc.edu/athletics.

The men's teams host three Cascade Gym. For more informa-

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Portland -

women basket-

## **Dream Seasons**

### Jesuit beats Lincoln for 4A title

(AP) - Jesuit quarterback Austin Pearce scored on a three-yard run with less than three minutes to play and the Crusaders held on to win the OSAA Class 4A state football championship with a 14-10 victory against Lincoln Saturday at Autzen Stadium in Eugene.

Pearce's run was set up when Jesuit's Collin Quade blocked a punt sending the ball back toward the Cardinals' end zone where Jesuit took possession with 2:59 on the clock and trailing 10-7. One play later, Pearce went up the middle for the score.

Paul Weatheroy led Jesuit with 133 yards rushing and one touchdown, while Lincoln was led by quarterback Connor Kavanaugh, who completed 29-of-45 passes for 290 yards. He also threw two interceptions.

The Cardinals, who were playing in their first championship game ever, went on top 10-7 with 2:30 to go in the third quarter on a two-yard touchdown run by Kavanaugh, a score set up by a 36-yard catch-and-run by Jordan Polk

That was the first score of the second half for either team, as Jesuit led 7-3 at the break thanks to Weatheroy's eight-yard touchdown run with 3:43 left in the first half.

His score capped a drive that began at the Lincoln 40 after Jesuit stopped the Cardinals' of fense on a fourth-down try.

Jesuit came into its third championship game in school history scoring an average of 46 points in its last eight games.

But on Saturday, the Crusaders struggled to finish drives, missing three field-goal tries and going 1-for-10 on third down conversion attempts.

They narrowly outgained the Lincoln 297-290.

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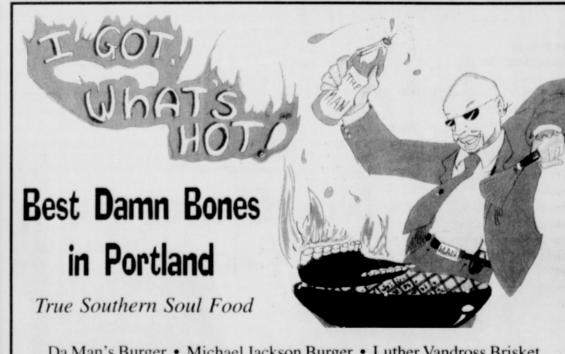
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