

# 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 makeover due in the 2006. Compared to previous M Class wagons, the new generation is almost six inches longer and switches from body-on-frame construction to a rigid unibody platform.



The ML 350 is designed to hold five passengers. The unibody construction with isolated front and rear sub frames, a technique that emphasizes high strength and low weight, which reduces the overall height. The re-proportioned de-

sign improve accommodation of those larger than the average American individual or family and the height makes it easier to get in and out of.

Standard equipment includes the 7G-tronic shifter, full-time four-wheel drive (4WD) and four-wheel

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 its 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 Package (\$4,500), Premium Package which includes trim package (6,150), and many more options.

# 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 Mendezona, 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 prior to his arrival. Last year's



Coach Rob Pridemore's women basketball team at Portland Community College won nine games in his first year, and this year's team is well on pace to eclipse that record.

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The men's teams host three games this weekend in the Portland Crossover Tournament at the PCC

Cascade Gym. For more information, go to the school website at pcc.edu/athletics.

## 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 Je-

suit stopped the Cardinals' offense 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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