

Portland Observer Auto Review

News and reviews on new motor vehicles

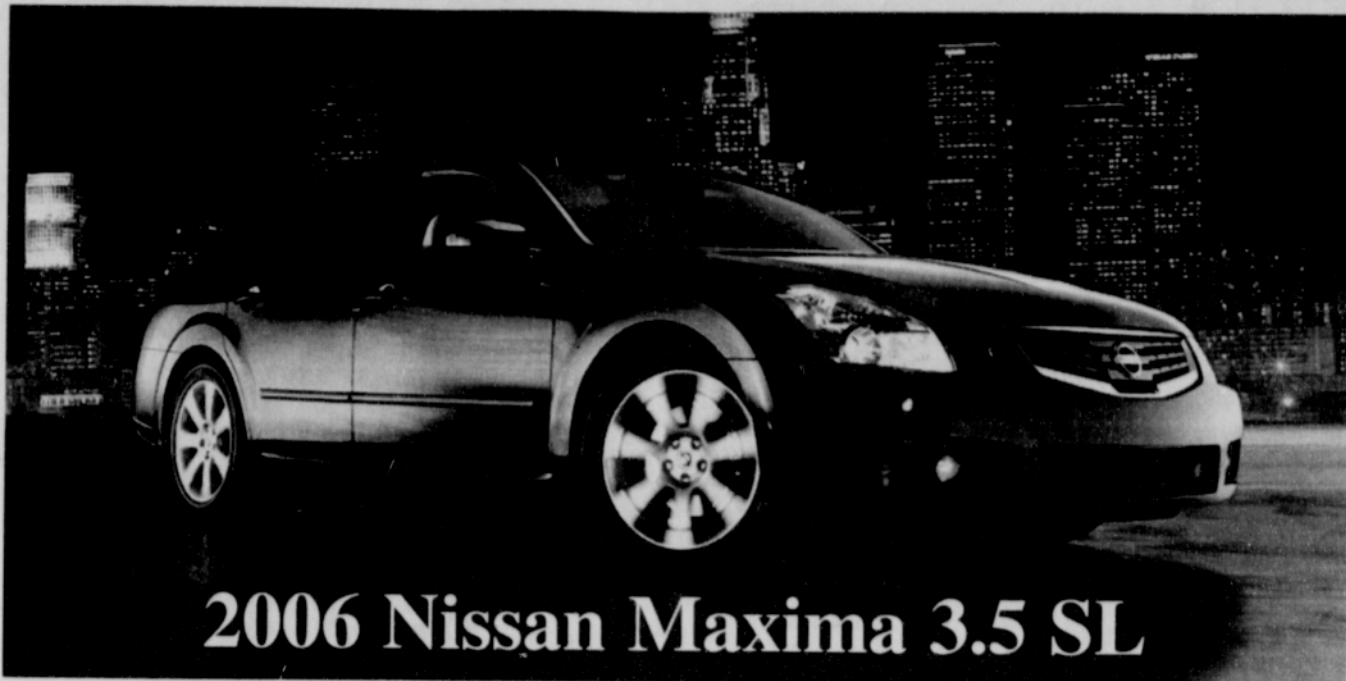
BY KATHLEEN CARR

The 2006 Nissan Maxima offers distinctive styling, a sophisticated personality, and above-par performance. Straddling the line between mid-size sedan and a near-luxury sport sedan, it's a car designed for auto aficionados who appreciate something different.

The Nissan Maxima features a chiseled, muscular body with pronounced character lines. This is especially true at the front end, where a rounded-rectangle texture fills in the twin nostrils in Nissan's signature grille, split by a dark chrome medallion at the center, with aerodynamically integrated headlight clusters wrapping over the top and around at the sides.

Cruising on the roadways is effortless in the Maxima. The 3.5-liter V6 develops 265 horsepower and pulls strongly in passing situations. The V6 has such a broad power band that the Maxima is happy being either a high-revving hard-charger or a cruising city streets.

The interior of the Maxima is innovative



2006 Nissan Maxima 3.5 SL

and comfortable. The seats in the SL look nice and feel supportive and luxurious at the same time. The control switches are

easily located, however one might miss the controls for the heated seats and sunshade hidden on the front side of the

center console.

The base SL model (\$30,000) comes with the five-speed automatic, a softer

suspension and 17-inch wheels and tires. Leather upholstery, wood grain trim, heated seats, xenon HID headlamps, a premium eight-speaker Bose stereo, and conveniences that are optional on the SE are all standard on the SL. Some of the options offered are Driver Preferred Package at \$1,800 (Bluetooth Hands Free Phone System, Electronic outside mirrors with memory, Driver seat with 2 position memory and power lumbar and heated power tilt/telescopic steering wheel w/memory), Elite Package \$1,750 (2-passenger rear seating/heated rear seats, rear center console w/12V power point, auto up and down windows, and power rear sunshade), Sirius satellite radio, navigation system, and power glass sunroof.

The Nissan Maxima is luxurious with innovative styling and interior features. Its engine is powerful and its ride is smooth and quiet.

Tested Vehicle Information: \$36,140 (base \$30,000) price; 213 Cubic Inch V6 Engine; 5-Speed Automatic Transmission.

SPORTS



Kids enjoy a Summer Celebration at Montavilla Park in northeast Portland.

Parks Programs Find Support

A Summer Playgrounds program, offering free after-school activities for low-income kids and the construction of a new skatepark at Pier Park in north Portland are benefiting from a generous \$250,000 donation from NikeGo. Nike's long-term public service campaign gets kids moving and gives them the

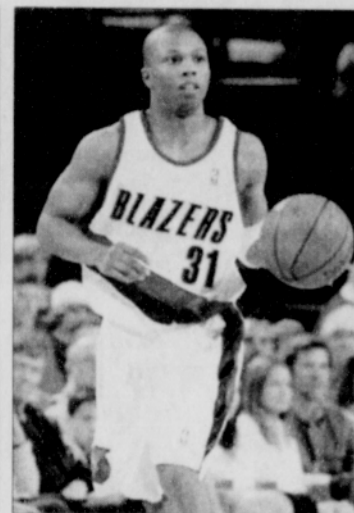
means to do it. The playgrounds support will pay for recreation specialists at 10 Portland parks, many of them in north and northeast Portland. NikeGo cards will be distributed to about 800 kids to pay for registration fees for after school activities they would otherwise be unable to afford.

"At a time when obesity is identified as the most common contributor to diabetes among children, Nike's contribution goes beyond providing fun and games for kids. It will also improve their health and overall well-being," said Zari Santer, director of Portland Parks and Recreation.

Blazers Wheel and Deal



Brandon Roy



Sebastian Telfair



LaMarcus Aldridge

Get No. 2 and No. 7 picks; Telfair traded

(AP)—The Portland Trail Blazers were busy in the hours before the NBA Draft last week, pulling off a trio of trades.

In a last-minute stunner, the Blazers traded the No. 4 pick, Tyrus Thomas, to the Chicago Bulls along with forward Viktor Khryapa and a conditional second-round pick for the No. 2 overall pick, LaMarcus Aldridge.

The Blazers also traded away guard Sebastian Telfair and center Theo Ratliff to Boston for the No. 7 pick, Randy Foye, then swapped him with Minnesota for the No. 6 pick, Brandon Roy.

Aldridge, a 6-foot-11 power forward/center who played as a sophomore last season at Texas, is known for his defense. He averaged 12.4 points last season and was named the Big 12 defensive player of the year.

The Trail Blazers dealt Telfair and Ratliff and a 2008 pick to Boston in exchange for the No. 7 pick, center Raef LaFrentz and Dan Dickau. The Celtics took 6-foot-4 Foye out of Villanova.

The Blazers finished last season 21-61, the worst record in the NBA. And the team's ownership situation is in limbo, with owner Paul Allen claiming the franchise is losing too much money.

Allen, nonetheless, participated in the draft, ensconced at the team's practice facility just south of Portland.

Telfair was drafted with the 13th overall pick two years ago.

The prep phenom out of Abraham Lincoln High School in New York was expected to be the face of the franchise, but struggled last season with a thumb injury, and watched as Steve Blake became the team's starter at the point.

Telfair averaged 8.1 points and 3.5 assists over two seasons with the Blazers. His shooting percentage was .395.

Wrestling Club Help

Northwest Disciples Wrestling Club, a group serving disadvantaged and at-risk youth in the

Albina community of north and northeast Portland, has received a \$2,500 grant from the Fred Meyer Foundation.

The amateur wrestling program considers wrestling as the ultimate challenge sport that offers the most rewarding benefits for developing self-

confidence, personal discipline, strong work ethics and personal integrity.

The organization expects to produce not only outstanding athletes, but exceptional young people and leaders who will be future assets to their community.

For more information about the club, contact Tom Bispham at 503-659-0225.

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