

Portland Observer Auto Review

2006 Volvo C70 T5 Hardtop Convertible

BY KATHLEEN CARR

The all new C70 is one of the first open-top cars in the premium segment with both a steel roof and space for four adults. The C70 intelligent structural rigidity, amazing list of standard features, agreeable driving characteristics, and all-out good looks in both convertible or coupe format, makes an excellent choice.

The all-new Volvo C70 was developed to offer new standards of preventive and protective safety in the convertible market. The car has an advanced body structure and



Tested Vehicle Information: Price: \$40,400; Engine: 2.5 5 Cylinder; Transmission: 6 Speed Manual.

several solutions that make it unique among open-top cars. The lack of a fixed roof has been compensated for by reinforcements in the structure and sophisticated safety technology. One unique example is the new door-mounted inflatable curtain, which is part of the enhanced protection system for side impacts.

Since the door-mounted inflatable curtain cannot be fitted within the headliner like other Volvos, it is fitted in the door and inflates upwards when it is deployed.

There's only one model choice, the T5, which means a light-pressure turbocharged 2.5-liter five-cylinder engine with 218 hp and 236 lb-ft of

torque. The C70 feels solid and has plenty of torque down low and at mid-range, so it pulls in just about any situation. The turbo is well behaved, with minimal lag and minimal noise under pressure. An independent suspension transitioned easily between smooth ride and sporty handling. The lower, wider stance made maneuvering around the road's tight turns an easy drive.

Pricing for the C70 starts at \$38,710, not including the \$695 destination charge. Optional equipment includes a Premium Package with leather seats and a few other items for \$1,395, an upgraded Dynaudio Package for \$1,550, and the auto transmission for \$1,250. A climate control package tosses in heated front seats, headlamp washers, and Rainsensor wipers for \$675. Only a few stand-alone options: High Intensity Discharge (HID) headlamps, the 5-speed, and a navigation system for \$2,120 bring the loaded total to \$46,832.

SPORTS

Murrayhill Celebrates

Little league team finishes third in the world



Second baseman Sam Albert scores during Saturday's Oregon-Georgia Little League U.S. Championship game in South Williamsport, Pa.

It was a great run and great fun for the Murrayhill Little League team that captivated the state during the World Series in South Williamsport, Pa., but Saturday's 7-3 loss to Columbus, Georgia tied them for the third place title with Mexico after weather wiped out a tie-breaking game.

The 12 all-star boys from Beaverton were the first Oregon team to make it to the Little League World Series since 1958.

In the U.S. Championship game Saturday, Murrayhill fell behind in the first inning as Georgia came out strong and built a 3-0 lead. By the third inning a home run with

men on base by Murrayhill knotted the score at three apiece and from there it was a pitching chess match as both teams left men on base.

Georgia's bats woke up again in the sixth and final inning and four runs crossed the plate to build a comfortable cushion, and the Murrayhill batters hit consecutive fly balls to end the game.

On Monday, Georgia went on to defeat Japan 2-1 to win the World Series. A day earlier driving rains soaked the field and ended the adventure for Murrayhill team, wiping out not only their chance to face Mexico in the third-place game, but its lone shot at an international team and an opportunity to finish the series with a win.

However, they still made waves this summer, evidenced by the grand and spirited reception at Portland International Airport when the team arrived home late Monday. Portland's Royal Rosarians also showed up at to extend congratulations and attach a small rose, symbolic of the city, to each boy's uniform.

"I'm exhausted," said second baseman Sam Albert, nearly yelling to be heard above the media and family frenzy at the airport. "It's really good to be home again."

Racial Prank, Job Loss Brings NASCAR Suit

(AP) -- A former NASCAR team member who was the victim of a 1999 racial prank is suing NASCAR, claiming the sanctioning body failed to deliver on a promise to provide him work after the incident.

David Scott, 43, is a former motorcoach driver for car owners Roger Penske and Michael Kranefuss and now lives in Oregon. Scott, who is black, was subjected to racial slurs and harassment in several runs with a handful of white motorcoach drivers during the 1999 season.

The racial situation exploded during a race at New Hampshire International Speedway when two white motorcoach drivers confronted Scott with one wearing a white pillowcase over his head to imitate a Ku Klux Klansman.

The offending coach drivers were fired from their respective teams and NASCAR revoked the licenses needed for them to work at the race track.

But Scott lost his job. He accepted a settlement in 2000, but said he only did so because he believed NASCAR would hire him back in some capacity.



LaMarcus Aldridge

Surgery Sidelines Top Pick

Portland Trail Blazer forward LaMarcus Aldridge, the second pick in the NBA draft, has undergone a successful surgery to repair a small ligament tear in his right shoulder, team officials announced last week.

Aldridge had the operation in Los Angeles and is expected to return to Portland in two to three weeks to begin rehabilitation. He anticipates returning to the basketball court in mid-to-late November.

The 6 foot 11 inch Dallas native averaged 11.6 points, 6.6 rebounds, 2.2 assists and 1.8 blocks in five games during the 2006 Vegas Summer League.

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