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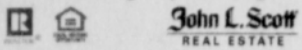


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Portland Observer Auto Review

2007 Subaru Outback AWD Wagon

BY KATHLENE CARR

The iconic AWD Outback Wagon provides all the room and traction that many people need from an SUV, without the bulk and poor fuel economy. Given the car's level of performance, EPA ratings of 19 mpg city and 24 mpg highway are quite good. Increased ground clearance and strengthened suspension improve off-pavement capability. Even so, the Outback is better suited for traversing deep snow drifts or muddy roads, than serious off-road duty.

Subaru developed the first crossover sport wagon with the



SPECIFICATIONS: 2.5 Liter Engine, 4 Cylinders, 5Spd Sport Shift Auto Trans, Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price of \$34,195.00.

five-door Outback, which works like a tall station wagon or dropped-down SUV. It uses the Legacy platform but rides higher due to the elevated suspension. On the freeway, the Outback

handles the usual pavement irregularities and expansion joints nearly as well as a luxury sedan, never ruffling its occupants, the Outback wagon is versatile. Its versatility comes not just from its

wagonlike body configuration, but from its all-wheel-drive system -- standard equipment on every Subaru.

It's also heartening to note the Outback's crash-test ratings: solid five stars for both front- and side-impact crashes.

Beyond all this, the Outback wagon is aesthetically pleasing, inside and out. Long gone are those days when Subarus were downright weird-looking. While the Outback wagon's exterior is pretty much standard-issue wagon with a few attention-grabbing details -- a rear spoiler, a sharply raked rear window and a functional hood scoop on the turbo model -- its interior is especially attractive. The Subaru Outback proves to be the whole package of performance and fun!

SPORTS

Ducks Win is Bittersweet

Oklahoma gets apology but final stands

(AP) -- The Pacific-10 Conference, finding merit in Oklahoma's complaints about the officiating in its loss to Oregon, issued a one-game suspension Monday to the officiating crew and the instant replay officials who worked the game and an apology to the Sooners.

The Ducks won the game 34-33 after scoring two touchdowns in the final 72 seconds.

"Errors clearly were made and not corrected, and for that we apologize to the University of Oklahoma, coach Bob Stoops and his players," Pac-10 Commissioner Tom Hansen said in a statement. "They played an outstanding college football game, as did Oregon, and it is regrettable that the outcome of the contest was affected by the officiating."

After the Sooners' practice Monday night, Stoops said the apology brought him no satisfaction.

"At least they have reacted to it and tried. Truly there can be no amends to it and it can't be corrected," Stoops said.

Two plays were reviewed on



Oregon's Jordan Kent drops the football after it was tipped by Oklahoma's Marcus Walker during the second quarter of their college football game Saturday. (AP photo)

Oregon's game-winning drive -- an onside kick that gave the Ducks possession and a pass interference call one play before Oregon's winning touchdown.

Hansen said the onside kick was touched by an Oregon player before it had traveled the required 10 yards, and, therefore, the ball should have been awarded to Oklahoma. The video also shows an Oklahoma player actually recovered the ball, although that aspect of the play was not reviewable under the instant replay rule.

"The fact that the errors on the onside kick altered the outcome of the game is most unfortunate and unsettling," Hansen said. "We had a solid veteran crew assigned, and the instant replay official had a fine career as a referee in the Pac-10."

Hansen said that the future work of the officials who were suspended will be closely monitored.

University of Oklahoma president David Boren sent a letter Monday to Big 12 commissioner Kevin Weiberg, saying the officiating problems was beyond an "out-

rageous injustice," and asking him to pursue having the game eliminated from the record books and having the officials involved in the game suspended for the remainder of the season.

Weiberg responded with a statement saying the result of the game would stand.

"There is no provision under NCAA or conference rules for a game result to be reversed or changed as a result of officiating errors, nor do I believe there should be," he said.



Reggie Bush with the Heisman Trophy he won while at the University of Southern California. Improper benefits while in school could lead to NCAA sanctions against the Trojans and retroactively cost Bush his Heisman Trophy.

Reggie Bush: I Know the Truth

Not worried about scandal

(AP) -- New Orleans Saints running back and Heisman Trophy winner Reggie Bush insisted Friday he and his family have done nothing wrong, responding to allegations that they accepted gifts, money and other benefits worth more than \$100,000 from two marketing agents during his career at Southern California.

"I'm not worried about any of these allegations or anything like that, because I know what the truth is, like I said from day one," Bush said. "Once the smoke clears, everybody's going to see we did nothing wrong."

Yahoo.com reported Thursday that Michael Michaels, a marketing agency investor and current Bush marketing agent Mike Ornstein supplied Bush and his family with gifts while he was still at USC.

The NCAA prohibits student-athletes and their families from receiving extra benefits from agents or their representatives. Any improper benefits could lead to NCAA sanctions against USC and retroactively cost Bush his college eligibility and Heisman Trophy.

Bush responded to questions about the report much the same as he did when the allegations of improper benefits first were reported earlier this year.

"Obviously it does affect you just because it is out there," Bush said. "But at the same time, I know there's nothing to worry about. It makes you want to go out there right away and tell your side of the story. Show everybody the facts, the truth. But you can't do that. That wouldn't be the right way to do it."

Yahoo.com reported earlier this year that Bush's mother and stepfather lived rent free last year in a house in the San Diego area owned by Michaels. He later said the family promised to repay him the \$54,000 in rent once Bush went pro.

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Portland Trail Blazers Begin Training

Portland Trail Blazers Head Coach Nate McMillan officially embarks on his second training

camp with the team's annual media day on Oct. 2, beginning at 2 p.m. at the Rose Garden Arena.

"This year our players began September workouts together in Portland and I believe that will give us positive momentum heading into the preseason," McMillan said. "I have the expectation that this will be a very high energy, competitive camp and we will work to get better each and every day."

Portland's first public appearance at the Rose Garden will be at the Wells Fargo Fan Fest on Sun-

day, Oct. 15, with doors opening at 3 p.m. The event will include family oriented activities and an intrasquad scrimmage that will feature the entire team, including 2006 first-round draft choices LaMarcus Aldridge, Brandon Roy and Sergio Rodriguez.

Free tickets are available at all Oregon and Southwest Washington Wells Fargo branches and at the Rose Quarter ticket office. Fans are encouraged to bring new school supplies to the scrimmage to support the School House Supplies program.

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