

Portland Observer Auto Review

News and reviews on new motor vehicles

2007 BMW X3 3.0si

BY KATHLEEN CARR

BMW brought serious sportiness into the sport utility vehicle field when it rolled out the midsize X5, and challenged the crossover market when launching the smaller 5-passenger X3, referring to it as a Sport Activity Vehicle with an emphasis on performance.

For 2007, a revised 3.0si version of the X3 is available. The 3.0si features new exterior design elements such as black bumpers, a large kidney grille, clear front corner lights, retractable headlight washers, chrome exhaust tips, LED taillights and shiny new 17-inch wheels.

However, the most significant change is under the hood. The aluminum and magnesium 3.0-liter

inline-six-cylinder engine delivers 260 horsepower at 6600 rpm and 225 lb.-ft. of torque at 2500 rpm. This translates to a more relaxed and powerful low end combined with brighter, more energetic high-rpm characteristics. The engine responds with graceful ease and power.

The 3.0si is loaded with sassy-drivability. The new 6-speed automatic with Steptronic is responsible for much of the X3's drivability. Performance and efficiency of the new automatic are also immediately evident. BMW claims the new transmission accounts for a 6-percent gain in fuel economy over the 2006 model. Shifting is agile and responsive: 0-60 mph in 7.1 seconds. BMW's xDrive all-wheel-



The Ultimate Sassy Driving Experience:

3.0-liter 260-hp inline-6 engine; six-speed automatic Steptronic transmission w/OD and auto-manual; 0-60 mph. -in 7.1 seconds; City- 19mpg. / Highway- 26mpg.; \$ 38,600.00 MSRP.

drive system is now integrated as a standard feature into the X3's Dynamic Stability Control System (DSC), as well as ABS functions and Dynamic Traction Control System (DTC). It also includes Brake

Drying, Brake Standby for emergency applications, Start-off Assist and Brake Fade Compensation (BFC). From our spirited highway drive to a decent amount of off-roading, the results were pretty obvious. The 3.0si is game for anything.

Several interior changes render the BMW X3 3.0si more luxurious and refined than the previous model. Nicer dashboard material with wood inserts, more door panel upholstery with special stitching in the optional leather seating, solid door pockets, a new three-spoke multi-functional steering wheel and optional 16-way front seats all enhance the cabin's environment.

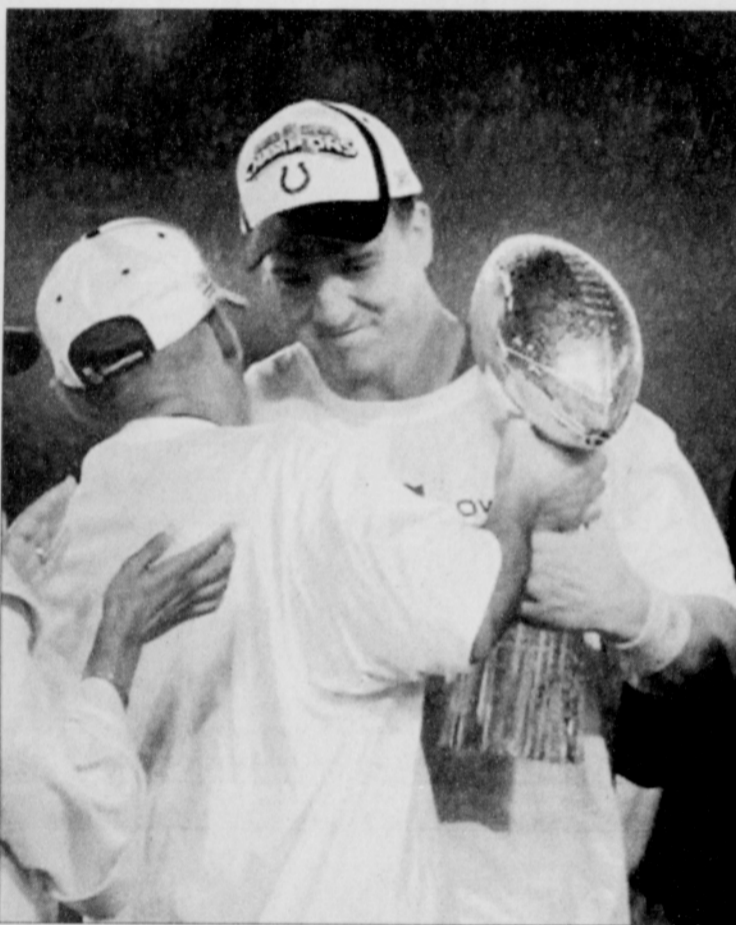
BMW also upgraded the premium package to include a rearview mirror-mounted compass, universal garage door opener and power-folding exterior mirrors with auto-

matic dimming. Heated rear seats are added to the Cold Weather Package, which also includes heated front seats, headlight washers and a ski bag.

The 2007 X3 3.0si shows BMW's commitment to building engaging, car-inspired crossovers. BMW's sensitivity to the shifting demands of buyers for more space, performance, fuel efficiency and luxury have been resoundingly answered. BMW succeeded in their quest to combine luxury, performance, practicality and style into an irresistible sassy all-activity vehicle the 2007 X3 3.0si.

Because of its reputation for engineering high performance sedans and coupes, BMW remains a favorite with car enthusiasts worldwide. The 2007 X3 3.0si is sure to win the hearts of the next generation of satisfied BMW enthusiasts.

SPORTS



Colts quarterback Peyton Manning (right) hugs coach Tony Dungy after the Colts beat the Bears, 29-17 in the Super Bowl Sunday. Manning was MVP.



Indianapolis Colts coach Tony Dungy rides aloft his players' shoulders after winning Super Bowl XLI on Sunday.

Dungy Beats Protege Smith in Super Bowl

For biggest win of his career

(AP) -- Merely by stepping on the field Sunday, Tony Dungy made cultural history.

A few hours later, he won the Super Bowl, too.

Not bad for a day's work.

Long saddled with a reputation as a coach who couldn't win the big one, Dungy shook that label when his Indianapolis Colts beat the Chicago Bears 29-17.

The biggest win of Dungy's career came against his close friend and protege, Bears coach Lovie Smith. They were the first black head coaches in the 41-year history of the Super Bowl.

When the game ended, the 51-year-old Dungy was hoisted onto the shoulders of his team.

"It means probably more to him than it does to any of us," defensive end Dwight Freeney said. "He has waited a long time. He has deserved this."

As his team celebrated, Dungy switched his blue Colts cap for a white one that read "NFL champions" and walked to midfield, where he and Smith exchanged words and a hug.

Dungy held on for an extra second.

"I just told Lovie how proud I was of this whole moment," Dungy said. "I really appreciate what he has done in Chicago — the way he does it, the type of person he is. They're going to get their championship soon."

Their relationship dates to 1996, when Dungy hired Smith to coach linebackers for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. They were a page-one story throughout Super Bowl week, discussing daily the laid-back personalities and Christian faith they



Bears Coach Lovie Smith

share, as well as their groundbreaking success.

"I'm proud to be the first African-American coach to win this,"

Dungy said during the trophy ceremony. "But again, more than anything, Lovie Smith and I are not only African-American but also Christian coaches, showing you can do it the Lord's way. We're more proud of that."

Dungy won because he had the better quarterback. Like his coach, Peyton Manning filled a void in his impressive resume by winning a ring. Steady rain made for a sloppy game that included eight turnovers, but Manning threw for 247 yards, including a 53-yard touchdown pass.

"We're proud to have won this for our leader, Coach Dungy," Manning said.

Smith's erratic young quarterback, Rex Grossman, made the same kind of mistakes that had

Bears fans lobbying for his benching all season. He threw two interceptions, with one returned for a touchdown, and he fumbled twice, losing one.

The underdog Bears lost two other turnovers, giving them five total.

"Obviously we're very disappointed," Smith said. "Turnovers really did us in."

In the early going, it appeared Smith might pull off an upset against his former mentor. Devin Hester returned the opening kickoff 92 yards for a score, and Smith followed the rookie down the sideline and signaled touchdown.

But the Colts rallied and claimed their first Super Bowl championship since the 1970 season, when they played in Baltimore.

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