

# Portland Observer Auto Review

News and reviews on new motor vehicles

## Evolutionary on the Outside ~ Revolutionary on the Inside

BY KATHLEEN CARR

The BMW Mini Cooper is a throwback to its ancestor of the same name, mimicking its appearance and performance. The original Mini was launched in 1959 at a cost of \$786, and not much changed until 1974 when BMW purchased the English carmaker. BMW's successful launch of the Mini Cooper in 2002 quickly made it the most recognized car on the road. The 2007 Mini Cooper is expected to maintain the brand's reputation for excellent resale value, retaining an anticipated 61 percent of its value after 36 months.

The Mini Cooper hatchbacks are redesigned for 2007, gaining slightly more power and marginally larger dimensions. Though forced to redesign the car to meet the European safety standards, BMW designers were reluctant to risk

messing with a successful formula. Unless parked side-by-side it would be hard to distinguish the 2007 model from its predecessors. Nevertheless, though the same chassis has been used, there is not a single exterior panel that is common between the two cars.

The front of the 2007 Mini had to be restyled to conform to the rigid European restrictions on exterior panel shapes for pedestrian safety, as well as to adapt to the shaped of the new engine. The hatchback is two inches longer, with a slightly longer nose and taller hood. However, the designers didn't want to lose the iconic bulldog image of the new Mini, and the remainder of the car had to be restyled as well.

Describing the new model Mini Cooper, the designers called it "evolutionary on the outside, revolu-



**SPECIFICATIONS:** 1.6-liter, 16-valve inline 4-cylinder, 118-hp engine; 6-speed manual transmission; 32 MPG-City, 40 MPG-Highway; \$ 27,000 MSRP.

tionary on the inside." The interior still has a sporty look to it, though now a bit less extreme, with the enlarged round speedometer in the center of the dash, and the tachometer mounted on and moving with the tilt-adjustable steering column to remind owners of the classic Mini heritage and campy style.

Though the rear seat wouldn't ever be argued to be overly comfortable for adults, changes in the contours of the rear seats have added about an inch of rear legroom, so that even adults can endure a short ride in the back seat. With the large rear hatch and separate folding rear seatbacks, the Mini is quite flexible in configuration, though its overall size limits luggage space, but still allows enough to accommodate two travelers luggage for a 2-week vacation.

If you crave uniqueness then you will love the factory capabilities of tailoring a Mini Cooper with your own flair, loaded with English charm and German engineering. The 2007 Mini Cooper is fun.

# SPORTS

## Portland Observer All Stars

### 6A Men's Basketball All League

#### First Team All League

Ameer Shamsud-din	Benson	6'2	Junior
Jamar Johnson	Benson	6'2	Junior
Paul McCoy	Grant	6'1	Junior
Mario Gill	Wilson	6'0	Junior
Kevin Reynolds	Lincoln	6'3	Senior
Connor Kavanaugh	Lincoln	6'0	Senior

**Coach of the Year** -- David Adelman, Lincoln HS

**Player of the Year** -- Paul McCoy, Grant HS

#### Second Team All League

Warren King	Lincoln	6'4	Senior
Brandon Jones	Grant	5'10	Senior
David McNair	Franklin	6'3	Sophomore
Mike Moser	Grant	6'6	Sophomore
Sean Brownhill	Franklin	6'2	Senior
Conor Johnson	Lincoln	6'2	Senior

### 5A Women's Basketball All League

#### First Team All League

Janita Badon	Jefferson	5'6	Junior
Nyeshia Sims	Jefferson	5'8	Junior
Tryisha Blake	Jefferson	5'8	Sophomore
Shawndez Santiago	Marshall	5'8	Junior
Amanda Anderson	Marshall	5'9	Freshman
Lissie Parr	Cleveland	5'4	Senior

**Coach of the Year** -- Mike Bontemps, Jefferson

**Player of the Year** -- Janita Badon, Jefferson

#### Second Team All League

LaQuay Kennedy	Jefferson	5'6	Senior
Delese Carter	Jefferson	5'7	Senior
Claire Groth	Cleveland	5'8	Junior
Dequise Hammick	Jefferson	5'4	Freshman
Ariel Reynolds	Jefferson	6'0	Freshman

### 5A Mens Basketball All League

#### First Team All League

Antwon Wooten	Jefferson	6'3	Senior
Richard Townsend Gant	Jefferson	6'5	Senior
Anthony Golden	Madison	6'1	Junior
Cameron Jackson	Roosevelt	6'0	Junior
Sean Gaines	Madison	6'4	Junior
Sam Glasgow	Cleveland	6'3	Senior
Otho Lesure	Roosevelt	6'3	Junior

**Coach of the Year** -- Robert Key, Roosevelt HS

**Player of the Year** -- Cameron Jackson-Roosevelt HS

#### Second Team All League

Will Reese	Cleveland	6'1	Senior
Tyrone White	Jefferson	6'4	Junior
Herschall Slaughter	Jefferson	6'4	Senior
Marcus Massey	Marshall	5'10	Senior
Isiah Johnson	Roosevelt	6'1	Senior
Xavier Taylor	Roosevelt	6'1	Junior

### 6A Women's Basketball All League

#### First Team All League

Shardai Smith	Benson	5'10	Senior
Jessica Musgrave	Grant	5'8	Senior
Kelsey Goodell	Lincoln	5'11	Junior
Meleesa Patten	Benson	5'7	Senior
Tara Cook	Grant	5'6	Senior
Iris Lerch	Lincoln	5'9	Junior

**Player of the Year** -- Kelsey Goodell, Lincoln

**Coach of the Year** -- Missy Smith, Grant

#### Second Team All League

Kara Kasch	Franklin	5'8	Senior
Josephine Young	Grant	6'1	Senior
Nam-Phuong Hoang	Benson	5'3	Senior
Caitlin Grimm	Wilson	6'0	Senior
MaKenzie Blythe	Lincoln	5'6	Junior
Jessica Gilmore	Wilson	6'0	Senior

## Jefferson Alum Stands Out



**PHOTO CREDIT LEHIGH ATHLETICS**  
Marquis Hall, valedictorian of the Jefferson High School Class of 2006, is now a freshman at Pennsylvania's Lehigh University.

Jefferson High School alum Marquis Hall has become a standout athlete at Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Pa. and was named to the CollegeInsider.com Mid-Major Freshmen All-America Team.

Hall, a freshman, was the only student-athlete from the Patriot League selected to the team, and was one of 16 freshmen from mid-major teams across the country named to the list. Division I coaches and NBA scouts are part of the selection process in determining the team, along with the staff of collegeinsider.com.

Hall became Lehigh's first-ever Patriot League Rookie of the Year this season after being named the Rookie of the Week a league record eight consecutive times, and nine times overall. At Jefferson, Hall was class valedictorian and was named Third-Team All-State and Second-Team All-State tournament team selections and led his team to the Portland Interscholastic League championship with an overall record of 21-6, and league record of 17-1. He was also named MVP of the Oregon/Washington All-Star Game after scoring 29 points, as well as a McDonald's All-American nominee and Jefferson Sportsman of the Year.



University of Oregon's Bryce Taylor (left) and Maarty Leunen celebrate a win and the advancement to the 'sweet 16' of the NCAA basketball tournament.

## Ducks Make It to Sweet 16

(AP) -- So much for the little guys. The ones from Winthrop, at least.

Aaron Brooks scored 22 points and third-seeded Oregon smothered the frazzled Eagles 75-61 Sunday to eliminate the last remaining double-digit seed from the NCAA tournament.

The 11th-seeded Eagles (29-5), who upset Notre Dame in the first round, lost for the first time in 20 games to end their most successful tournament in seven tries.

This is the first time since 1995 that no double-digit seeds have advanced to at least the third round.

Instead, the Ducks (28-7) advanced to play UNLV in the semifinals of the Midwest Regional on Friday, March 23 in St. Louis. They made it largely because of their 11-for-23 shooting from 3-point range -- that was almost as hot as the fluorescent yellow uniforms they wore.

Tajuan Porter, the shortest man on the floor at 5-foot-6, scored 14 points. He hit his first four shots of the second half, all from long range, in the game's decisive spurt. The win sent Oregon into the round of 16 for the first time since 2002.



UO Ducks head men's basketball coach Ernie Kent leads his team to the Midwest Regional semifinals against UNLV at St. Louis on Friday, March 23.

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