

# Portland Observer Auto Review

News and reviews on new motor vehicles

## 2007 Jeep Compass Sport 4X4 The New Compass is Diversity

BY KATHLEEN CARR

The 2007 Jeep Compass is all new, a term usually meaning that a vehicle has been completely redesigned. But in the case of the Compass, it's a completely new vehicle: first generation.

Jeep is diversifying its lineup with a car-based crossover that foregoes off-road capability in favor of urban maneuverability. The Compass is the first Jeep not to be trail rated. Jeep's new Compass certainly is pointed in the right direction; little wagons like this are popular and are fast replacing traditional sport utility vehicles.

The Compass is one of those vehicles that pretty much sells itself when potential customers take it for a spin from a dealership because it's easy to maneuver and fun to drive. The Compass is especially appealing because it's in the hot

market for crossover vehicles that combine SUV and car features—and carries the revered Jeep nameplate.

Under the hood of all Compass models is Chrysler's new 2.4-liter, inline four-cylinder "world engine", jointly developed by DaimlerChrysler, Hyundai and Mitsubishi. Emphasis during development of this engine was on fuel mileage.

It's a solid, sophisticated, 16-valve engine, quieter and stronger than a four-banger was believed capable of being, 10 years ago. It features electronic variable valve timing that continually changes the torque curve, bringing more versatility to the 165 peak pound-feet of torque, and more capability to the 172 peak horsepower.

The Jeep Compass Sport offers a Continuously Variable Transaxle,



Specifications: 2.4-Liter 4-Cycle 16-Valve 172-hp @ 165 lb-ft. torque Engine; Automatic-CVT2 Transmission; 23-City 26-Highway MPG; \$17,175 MSRP

which performs like an automatic transmission, and it's a doozy. The CVT transmission, which is more fuel-efficient than a four-speed automatic transmission, has been calibrated to feel a lot more like a normal automatic transmission. We felt the off-the-line acceleration to be rather sluggish.

Front-wheel drive is standard - in fact the Compass is the first Jeep with this layout - but of course, this being a Jeep, all-wheel drive is available. The system is called Freedom Drive I, and it's fully automatic but has a lockable center coupling for extra-rough conditions.

The Compass offers a fairly long

list of standard key safety equipment, and features. Those include side-curtain air bags, electronic stability control, traction control, electronic roll mitigation, four-wheel disc antilock brakes, and hydraulic brake assist.

Other standard features include cloth seats, outdoor-tem-

perature display, AM/FM single-disc CD radio with an auxiliary input jack for an iPod or other MP3 player, a vinyl load floor, a center console with sliding armrest, 60/40 split fold-flat rear seat, tilt steering column, theft-deterrent system, rear wiper/washer/defroster, fog lights, and 17-inch aluminum wheels.

Another clever item is a rechargeable interior lamp that can be removed and used as a flashlight. There's also a 115-volt outlet in the center console for powering laptops and other small electronic devices.

The Compass features Jeep's bold and rugged look with a seven-slot grille, round headlamps, trapezoidal wheel openings and uniquely sculpted fenders. The windshield is steeply sloped for less wind resistance.

The all new 2007 Jeep Compass Sport 4X4 will appeal to budget-minded buyers with a need for urban maneuverability and the reputation of a Jeep.

## SPORTS

### Tiger Racks Up his 60th Golf Victory

(AP) -- When the cheers finally subsided in another compelling finish in the PGA Tour Playoffs, Tiger Woods walked off with an 8-under 63 for his sixth victory of the season. It put his name in the record books for a variety of feats and restored him to the top of the playoff standings.

The 63 tied the course record at Cog Hill and matched his best closing round on tour. He finished at 22-under 262 to break by five shots the tournament scoring record that Scott Hoch set in 2001 and Woods matched two years later.

This 60th victory of the PGA Tour made the 31-year-old Woods the youngest player to hit that milestone.



Tiger Woods holds the J.K. Wadley trophy after winning the BMW Championship PGA golf tournament, Sunday in Lemont, Ill.

### Portland Beavers Keep Name

The fans have spoken, and the Portland Beavers listened, announcing that the team will not change its historic nickname.

In recent months, the Beavers began a formal exploration into the possibility of a name change in an effort to create a stronger identity. The team conducted an extensive series of polls and surveys, ultimately presenting fans with a list of name-change op-



tions for input. In the end, the majority of fans expressed opinions in favor of keeping the familiar Beavers moniker.

"We said from the beginning this was a decision that couldn't

be made without the input of the community and our fans," Merritt Paulson, owner of the Beavers, said last week. "There's no question that there is a great deal of history with the Beavers' name, and we are embracing that history."

However, the team still plans to explore changes to enhance the team's identity, including a new logo and color scheme.

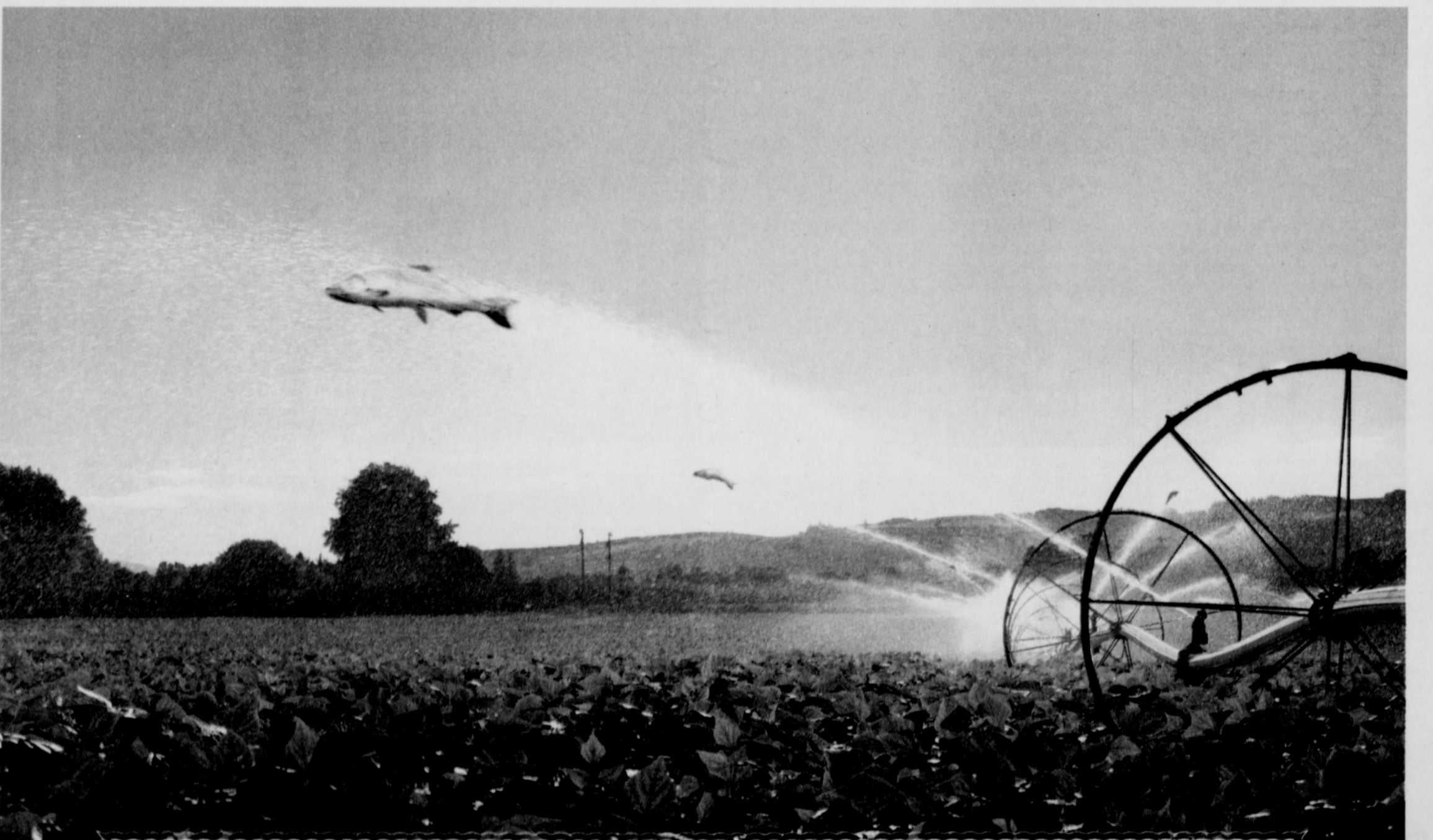
### Portland High School Football Lineup

Kick off the weekend with Portland high-school teams taking on others from around the state.

The action begins Friday at 4:30 p.m. as the Generals confront Newberg at Grant High School.

The other local games start at 7 p.m. and include last-year state champion Putnam at Franklin, Liberty at Jefferson, Century at Marshall, Woodburn at Madison and Southridge at Lincoln. Hit the

road for 7:30 p.m. games Friday as Roosevelt travels to Wilsonville and Wilson is at McNary; while Benson plays Forest Grove at 7 p.m. Tickets are available at the gate for \$6, \$2 for students.



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