

Portland Observer Auto Review

News and reviews on new motor vehicles

2007 Kia Sedona Base

BY KATHLEEN CARR

Like a fine wine, the Kia Sedona minivan has improved with age and we are enjoying our second glass. Fifteen years ago, no one could have imagined the fledgling Korean automaker would be building affordable and fun-to-drive vehicles able to compete with the leaders in this segment.

But Kia has worked hard to improve its product quality while continuing to undercut the pricing of the top import brands—a strategy that has paid off with record sales. The 2007 Kia Sedona is a great example of just how far the company has come in just the last six years.

The previous-generation Sedona minivan lost points with us for its mediocre acceleration; sloppy handling, dismal fuel economy and porky curb weight. The second-generation van, introduced last year, went under the knife and came out a swan.

For 2007, Kia has introduced a new short-wheelbase model. It's 12.6 inches shorter than the regular

version and has a slightly tighter turning radius. It's also less expensive, though this has been achieved by cutting some standard and optional features, most notably the fold-flat third-row seat.

The 2007 Kia Sedona minivan comes in two sizes -- a short-wheelbase (SWB) model with a 114-inch wheelbase and a long-wheelbase (LWB) model with a 119-inch wheelbase.

Inside, the Kia's minivan is more functional than stylish. Most materials are solid in quality. Both vans seat seven, but only the LWB van has a fold-flat third-row seat. All Sedona's offer plenty of storage, and seating is comfortable in all three rows, though larger families will want the extra legroom of the long-wheelbase model; 141.5 cubic feet opposed to the short-wheelbase van offering a total of 121 cubic feet.

The base Sedona comes with 16-inch steel wheels, dual manual-sliding rear doors, privacy glass, second-row captain's chairs, a 50/50-split removable third-row bench,



Kia Sedona Leads the Pack in Safety & Value

Specifications: 3.8-Liter 24-Valve 250-hp @ 253 lb-ft torque V6 Engine; 5-Speed Automatic Transmission; 18-City 25-Highway MPG; \$21,645. MSRP

tri-zone air-conditioning (with separate zones for the driver, front passenger and rear seats), keyless entry, an eight-speaker CD stereo, cruise control and power first- and second-row windows.

All Kia Sedona's are front-

wheel-drive and equipped with a 3.8-liter V6 engine that puts out 250 horsepower and 253 pound-feet of torque; 0-60 mph in 8.0 seconds. A five-speed automatic transmission is standard. Fuel economy is rated at 18-city/25-highway mpg.

Standard safety equipment on the 2007 Kia Sedona includes front seat-mounted side airbags, full-length side curtain airbags, front active headrests, antilock brakes with brake assist, traction and stability control, and a tire-pressure

monitoring system. Rear backup sensors and adjustable pedals are optional only on the Sedona EX. The Kia Sedona received a top five-star rating in all NHTSA frontal- and side-impact crash tests. It also fared well in Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) crash tests, earning the top score of "Good" in the Institute's frontal offset and side-impact tests.

The 2007 Kia Sedona is impressively quick off the line and during highway passing maneuvers, and it provides a smooth, quiet ride. Even at high speeds, front and rear passengers can maintain a normal conversation without having to yell. Ride quality is comfortable and controlled, but handling isn't athletic.

Overall, we're quite impressed with the 2007 Kia Sedona. Factor in its significant price and warranty advantages and you're looking at one very compelling minivan. As utilitarian vehicles go, the Kia is still quite competent and should be on your short list if you're shopping for a minivan that will protect your family and provide an honest value for your investment.

SPORTS

Oden Injury is Deja vu for Blazer Fans

Surgery brings inevitable comparisons

(AP) -- The season-ending injury to Greg Oden dredged up a bad memory for Portland Trail Blazers fans — that fateful draft day in 1984 when the team used the second overall pick to choose Sam Bowie instead of Michael Jordan.

Bowie proved injury-prone and Jordan proved to be, well, Jordan.

The news Thursday that the number-one pick in the June draft is out for the season after knee surgery brought inevitable comparisons. Should Portland



Greg Oden

have gone with Texas star Kevin Durant, who went to Seattle with the second selection?

Blazers management recalled Bowie, but stood firm by the decision.

"If you could look in (Oden's)

eyes today, you will see that this kid is what we want, and I have no doubt he will be back," Blazers general manager Kevin Pritchard said. "I always believe things happen for a reason."

And it remains to be seen whether Oden's future will prove as bleak as Bowie's in what has been called one of the worst draft debacles ever.

In 1984, the Houston Rockets took Hakeem Olajuwon with the top pick. Then the Blazers selected Bowie, passing on Charles Barkley, John Stockton and Michael Jordan, who went third to the Bulls.

The 7-foot-1 Bowie played four seasons with Portland,

averaging 10.5 points, but he was plagued by injuries and had leg surgery as many as five times. He retired in 1995 after stints with the New Jersey Nets and the Los Angeles Lakers.

There were about 20 requests for refunds or cancellations Thursday from fans who bought season tickets even though the team does not offer refunds.

"There has been so much excitement about the anticipation of this young team getting out on the floor and playing in front of our fans and the national market," coach Nate McMillan said. "To know that Greg wouldn't be with us, it was disappointing."

Oregon High School Football Lineup

There's plenty of local action to be found as most city teams this weekend play their last pre-homecoming away games.

Kickoff Friday with South Umpqua trying their hand

against Marshall High School on Minutemen turf at 5:30 p.m., then stick around for a

matchup between Cleveland and Willamette at 8 p.m. Otherwise, head to Madison or

Lincoln to see them take on Springfield and Tualatin at 7 p.m.

Hit the road for Franklin at Forest Grove, Jefferson at Eagle Point, Roosevelt at Ashland and

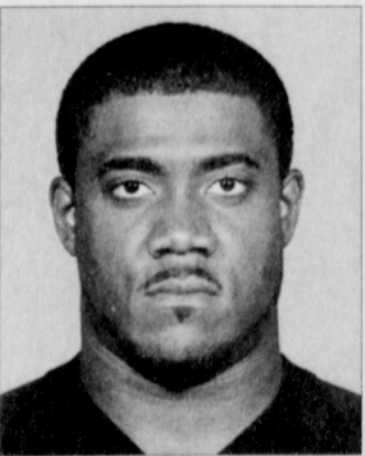
Wilson at Newberg at 7 p.m. Away games at 7:30 p.m. are Grant at Southridge and Benson at Aloha.

Tickets are available at the gate for \$6, \$2 for students.

Bills' Everett Slowly Improves

(AP) -- Further positive signs emerged following a life-threatening spinal-cord injury as Buffalo Bills tight end Kevin Everett demonstrated some movement in both hands and greater strength in his leg muscles.

"Everett remains medically stable in the intensive-care unit, and continues to make daily improvement in his neurological status," Bills doctor John Marzo said Monday in a statement re-



Kevin Everett

leased by the team.

Sept. 9 Everett was hurt making a tackle during Buffalo's season-opening game against Denver. He arrived at Millard Fillmore Gates Hospital paralyzed from his neck down, and doctors feared he would never walk again.

By Thursday, Everett slightly — and voluntarily — moved three fingers on his right hand, something he had previously been unable to do.

Baseball Tryout

Coast to Coast Baseball invites players ages 11-18 from across Oregon to showcase their skills at an open tryout in The Dalles.

The organization will select three teams to represent the U.S. against Puerto Rico, Australia, Europe and Hawaii.

To register for the Oct. 6 event, call 740-373-4455 or visit coasttocoastathletics.com.

Portland Timbers Advance in Season Playoffs

The Portland Timbers will host the Atlanta Silverbacks in their home semifinal playoff match on Sunday at PGE Park at 5 p.m.

The Timbers advanced to the second round of the playoffs for the first time since the 2001 season with a 3-1 aggregate-series win over the defending-champion Vancouver Whitecaps.

Rally Seals First PSU Win

Portland State (1-2) secured its first win the year Saturday against Sacramento State, dropping them to 0-2.

Quarterback Brian White led a fourth-quarter comeback and linebacker Jordan Senn capped it off with a big defensive play in the final seconds as the Vikings won their Big Sky Conference opener 35-24.

With the Vikings trailing 24-14 mid-

way through the third quarter, White engineered a 15-play, 85-yard drive, taking advantage of a key third-down penalty by Sacramento State early in the drive.

That set up an exciting finish for the Vikings as White completed 26 of 37 passes for 363 yards and two touchdowns while Senn led the defense with 11 tackles, a pass breakup and an interception.

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Missing and Exploited Children
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Endangered-Missing



Anahi Deltoro
Current Age: 4 months



Lilibeth Deltoro
Current Age: 3 years



Cinthia Pulido-Deltoro
Current Age: 26 years

Date Missing: Aug. 29, 2007
Missing From: Phoenix, AZ

Cinthia picked up her children from their babysitter's home in Phoenix, and was heading back home to Mesa, Arizona. She contacted family members at approximately 9:30 p.m. saying they would be home soon. Cinthia and the children have not been heard from since. They were last known to be traveling in a 2005 blue Chevy Cavalier with Arizona plate 036-MBZ.

If you have any information please contact:
The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children
1-800-THE-LOST (1-800-843-5678)

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