

Portland Observer Auto Review

News and reviews on new motor vehicles

2008 Subaru Tribeca Limited AWD Tribeca Transformation ~ Trash or Treasure?

BY KATHLEEN CARR

There are a number of five and seven-passenger SUVs on the market, so what's so special about the 2008 Subaru Tribeca? The Subaru Tribeca (sorry, bingo fans, "B9" is no longer in the model name) receives some significant updates for 2008.

For starters, every Tribeca is equipped with an advanced and capable all-wheel-drive system, which sends 55 percent of the power to the rear wheels in normal driving. A great benefit for those whose daily commutes sometimes includes heavy snow and rain.

The 2008 Subaru Tribeca, taking care to maintain its low center of gravity, now features an enlarged 3.6-liter, horizontally opposed six-cylinder engine producing 256 hp and 247 lb-ft. Performance is up

significantly, with the Tribeca's 0-60-mph acceleration times dropping from 9.5 seconds to 7.8. Better yet, the new engine matches the old one for gas mileage and now runs on regular fuel.

The Tribeca's sole transmission a five-speed automatic with Subaru's Sportshift clutchless-manual mode, which lets the driver control gear changes when desired. In normal operation, it shifts smoothly and kicks down quickly when needed.

Smaller than most other midsize crossover SUVs, the Tribeca maneuvers with ease. The 2008 Tribeca has a softer rear suspension; definitely tuned for comfort, as evidenced by its slow steering and noticeable body roll around corners. The payoff comes in the form of its smooth, serene ride quality.

The heavily revised 2008 Subaru Tribeca marks a major shift toward the mainstream. Fresh new exterior styling produces a less polarizing appearance the '08 model has a restyled front end, abandoning last year's adventurous-but-awkward look in favor of a more conservative face with a playfully aggressive stance.

Inside, Subaru has improved access to the third-row seat via a new design of the second-row seat release. However in our opinion the second-row seating was not road-trip comfortable for large adults. This little crossover sits lower to the ground than most, which improves the ease of access for small children and the elderly.

Our test model was the luxuriously appointed Limited which stimulates the driver and passen-



Specifications: 3.6-Liter Boxer 6-Cylinder 256-Hp @ 247 lb-ft. Torque Engine; Symmetrical AWD; 5-Speed Sport-Shift Automatic Transmission; 16-City 21-Highway MPG; \$39,678. MSRP

gers alike with loads of features such as a moonroof, roof rails, leather seating, upgraded speakers, an in-dash CD changer, HomeLink, front seat heaters and memory for the driver seat. Our seven-passenger version added a 50/50-split third-row seat and rear climate controls. Other no-

table options included were the satellite radio, a remote start system, and a navigation system with rear parking camera, and with the seven-passenger models only, a rear-seat DVD entertainment system.

Every 2008 Subaru Tribeca comes with antilock brakes with brake as-

ist, traction control, stability control and a rollover-sensing program that redirects power and braking efforts if a rollover is imminent. Front-seat side airbags, full-length side curtain airbags and active front head restraints round out the safety features. In government crash tests, the Tribeca scored five out of five stars for both front- and side-impact protection. In addition, it received the top rating of "Good" in frontal-offset and side-impact crash tests conducted by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety.

Overall, we think the 2008 Subaru Tribeca is of sound design and a solid performer delivering a very smooth and quiet ride. And thanks to its new engine and revised five-speed automatic transmission, the 2008 Subaru Tribeca also provides sufficiently quick acceleration for a midsize crossover SUV.

Take the family for a leisurely test drive in the newly transformed Tribeca. Then you can be the judge ~ trash or treasure?

SPORTS



Season-ending Injury

New Orleans Saints running back Deuce McAllister walks off the field after injuring his left knee in the first half of the Tennessee Titans game in New Orleans, Monday. An MRI confirmed he had torn his anterior cruciate ligament and would miss the rest of the season. (AP photo)

New Charges in Vick Case

Charges follow guilty plea

(AP) — Michael Vick and three co-defendants were indicted by a grand jury Tuesday on state charges related to a dogfighting ring operated on Vick's Virginia property.

Vick, who already pleaded guilty in federal court to a dogfighting conspiracy charge and is awaiting sentencing Dec. 10, was indicted on two more counts related to promoting dogfighting. Each count is a felony, punishable by up to five years in prison.

The grand jury declined to indict the Atlanta Falcons quarterback and his co-defendants on eight counts of animal cruelty, which would have exposed them to as many as 40 years in prison if convicted.

The charges are the first leveled against Vick in the county where he built a home on 15 acres that was the base of the dogfighting operation.

The grand jury — made up of two black men, two black women and two white women — met for more than three hours.

"These are serious charges, and we can assure you that this grand jury was not driven by racial prejudice, their affection or lack of affection for professional athletes, or the influence of animal-rights activists and the attendant publicity," Sheriff Harold Brown and Poindexter said in a joint statement.



Michael Vick

Negro League Heroes in Print

Playing-card art for the unsung

First published as trading cards in 1990, vibrant out-of-print watercolor images painted by award-winning artist Mark Chiarello are now collected for the first time in "Heroes of the Negro Leagues."

In this stunning collection, captivating art celebrating forgotten champions of baseball are accompanied by fascinating text by Jack Morelli, along with an introduction by one of the few surviving members of the Negro Leagues, Monte Irvin.

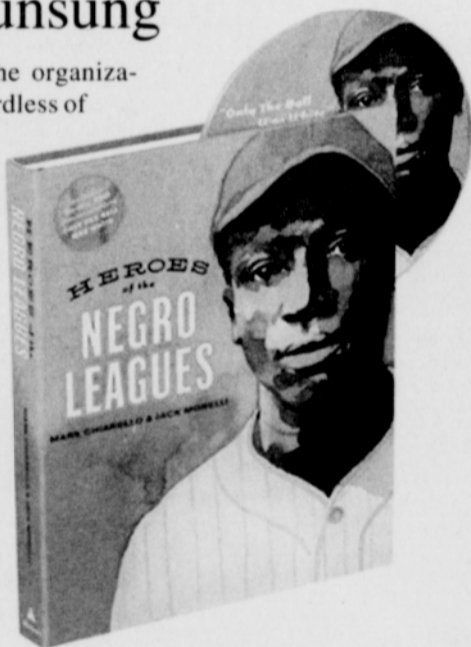
The legendary Negro Leagues play a vital role in black history, first successfully organizing in 1920 at a YMCA in Kansas City, Missouri.

In 1933, these teams launched an annual all-star game competition, attracting between 20,000 and 50,000 fans, and for decades the history of baseball traveled two distinct routes, eventually reconvening in 1947 when Jackie

Robinson opened the organization to all men, regardless of race.

Lost in the merger were the many stars of the Negro Leagues who did not cross over to Major League Baseball, and this book serves these unsung heroes in 60 full-color illustrations.

Chiarello has done freelance illustration for the National Basketball Association, Topps, Inc., LucasFilm Ltd., Disney, DC Comics, and Universal Pictures. His book, accompanied by the DVD documentary "Only the Ball Was White," will be available in November for \$19.95.



PSU Vikings Lose Big

San Diego State quarterback Kevin O'Connell ignited Saturday against the Portland State University Vikings, tossing five touchdown passes and throwing for 443 yards to lead the Aztecs to a 52-17 win.

The Aztecs got off to a good start, scoring on their first two touchdown strikes to give San Diego State a 14-0 lead.

PSU held the Aztecs to just three points in the third period but could gain no ground.

The Aztecs scored two late touchdowns, while the Vikings got a 47-yard field goal from Danny Urrego in the fourth period.

Viking quarterback Brian White had a big night, completing 36 of 53 for 408 yards, but was intercepted three times.

Benson-Jefferson Battle Friday

A pair of cross town football rivalries highlights a slate of high school football games on Friday.

The prime match-ups will start at 7 p.m. when the Benson Techmen take on the Jefferson Democrats at Lincoln High School and Cleveland and Franklin fight for turf at Marshall.

Also starting 7 p.m., non-confer-

ence games will see Eagle Point at Roosevelt and South Medford at Wilson.

Hitting the road are Marshall at North Eugene, Madison at Willamette, Grant at Canby and Lincoln at North Medford, all at 7 p.m. except the Lincoln game at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$6 at the gates, \$2 for students.

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1-800-THE-LOST

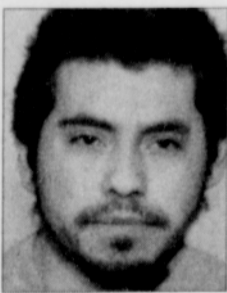
Endangered-Missing



ELLACASEY
Current Age: 16



MARTEENCASEY
Current Age: 2



PRISCILIANO
QUINONES Abductor
Current Age: 30

Date Missing: Nov. 26, 2006
Missing From: Newark, OH
Ella and Marteen were abducted by Quinones from their home in the early morning hours. They may be traveling in a maroon 1992 Ford Taurus with Ohio plates DVN4446. CAUTION IS STRONGLY ADVISED.

If you have any information please contact:
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