

Portland Observer Auto Review

News and reviews on new motor vehicles

The Everything To Everyone BMW

BY KATHLEEN CARR

BMW proudly released the new 335xi in late March. The 335xi is a 3.0 twin-turbo-powered engine putting out 300-hp @ 3000 rpm torque; with no turbo lag. All that coupled with AWD makes for a just about perfect sports sedan.

BMW's twin-turbo, 3.0-liter inline-six is turning out to be an exciting engine. This is also one of the first premium-gas-powered turbo engines for BMW in a long time. The experience of dropping the hammer on a perfectly balanced inline-six is incredible.

Best of all, you can mash the peddle to the metal and ALL that torque and power from the 300-hp engine bites the pavement without so much as a chirp from the 18" performance tires.

You've probably already know that AWD is a must for winters in Oregon. But did you know that this

is one of the first AWD sedans for BMW? Just imagine the awesome performance of the twin turbo engine paired with BMW handling presented in a premium sedan. What you probably don't know is how xDrive improves the package.

The xDrive in the 335xi can transfer 100% of the torque to the front or rear axle instantaneously as soon as wheel slippage, understeer or oversteer occurs. By default it has a 60/40 split favoring the rear, giving the car a rear driven feel. You can maneuver around parking lots like a rear wheel driven car. The powertrain is completed with a six-speed Steptronic transmission. All I can say is - let it snow, let it snow.

BMW loaded the speedy 335xi Sedan with an abundance of safety features including: BMW Assist with Bluetooth, a five-beam rear suspension, BMW Ultimate Ser-



2007 BMW 335xi AWD Sedan

Specifications: 3.0-Liter 24-Valve 300-Hp @ 3000 rpm torque twin-turbocharged 6-Cylinder Engine; 6-Speed Steptronic Automatic Transmission; AWD; 19-City 27-Highway MPG; \$51,675. MSRP

vice, Dynamic Stability Control (DSC), Dynamic Brake Control, Brake fade compensation, Dynamic

Traction Control, Start-off Assistance, Dual threshold "Smart" airbags for driver and passenger, Front-seat side impact seat-mounted airbags, front and rear seat Head Protection System, Run-

flat tires with Flat Tire Warning, Rain-sensing windshield wipers, Xenon Adaptive Headlights with Automatic Headlight Control System and Radar-sensing Dynamic Cruise Control.

Our test model, 335xi was equipped with the premium package; comfort access system, dark Burl wood trim, moonroof, navigation system, HD-Radio, premium sound system, Real-time traffic information, rear parking distance control and so much more. The BMW legacy of luxury continues with the Cold Weather package including: heated leather seats and fold-down seats with ski bag.

Truly the 2007 BMW 335xi AWD Sedan is destined to be a leader in this segment. Setting the standard for overall driving enjoyment, versatility, class and refinement in an entry-level luxury sedan; only the price of this perfection may give you pause.

SPORTS

Blazers Open Camp Hungry for Success

Despite top pick's knee

(AP) - Greg Oden's misfortune has lessened some of the city's enthusiasm for the upcoming season. But on the eve of fall camp, Portland Trail Blazers say they expect success.

"We think even without him, with the talent we have right now, that making the playoffs is realistic," said Brandon Roy, the NBA rookie of the year last season.

The Blazers parted with Zach Randolph on draft day, trading away the player who was both a source of frustration and the focal point of the offense. That opened the door for Roy, the charismatic shooting guard, to take over leadership of the team.

With an average age of 24.1 years, it is a young team, but a



Brandon Roy



Nate McMillan

significantly deeper one than coach Nate McMillan's previous two years, when the team finished 21-61 and 32-50.

The Blazers were last in the NBA in fast-break points last year, and McMillan plans to increase the tempo.

With Oden out, LaMarcus Aldridge and Joel Przybilla will

pair in the frontcourt. Aldridge was an all-rookie selection last season but Przybilla, the second-oldest Blazer at 27, is coming off an injury-plagued season where he averaged just 2.0 points and 3.9 rebounds a game.

Channing Frye, an athletic power forward with a similar game to Aldridge, came over from the New

York Knicks in the Randolph deal. Along with veteran Raef LaFrentz, he should provide insurance.

McMillan said he will give athletic Travis Outlaw a chance to win the job at small forward, but he could get competition from James Jones, a pickup from Phoenix, and Martell Webster, the sixth overall pick in the 2005 draft.

Free agent Steve Blake signed and will compete with Jarrett Jack at point guard. Roy is set at shooting guard. Darius Miles is still rehabbing from microfracture knee surgery and his return is uncertain.

McMillan lauded the character of his players, noting that the team has changed since the "Jail Blazers" of the past, and even from when he took over the team two years ago when "not everybody wanted to be a part" of his program.



Junior Golf Champions

The Leisure Hour Junior Golf Club gathers after playing in a summer tournament made accessible for minority and disadvantaged youth. Sign ups for next year's junior golf program will be held in January. For more information, call Angie Harris at 503-320-0123.

Partial Victory for Knicks Coach

Found guilty but no fine

(AP) - A jury decided Tuesday that New York Knicks coach Isiah Thomas sexually harassed a former team executive, subjecting her to unwanted advances and a barrage of verbal insults, but also said he does not have to pay punitive damages.

After an ugly, three-week trial, the verdict gives Thomas a partial victory in the lawsuit filed by Anucha Browne Sanders.

The jury did find that Madison Square Garden committed harassment against Browne Sanders, and decided that she is entitled to \$11.6 million in damages.

U.S. District Judge Gerard E. Lynch called it an "eminently reasonable" verdict before Thomas announced his intention to appeal.

"I'm innocent, very innocent, and I did not do the things she has accused me in this

courtroom of doing," Thomas said. "I'm extremely disappointed that the jury did not see the facts in this case. I will appeal this, and I remain confident in the man that I am and what I stand for and the family that I have."

Madison Square Garden also said it would appeal.

The harassment verdict was widely expected after the jury sent a note to the judge Monday indicating that it believed Thomas and the other defendants, Madison Square Garden and MSG chairman James Dolan, sexually harassed Browne Sanders, a married mother of three.

Browne Sanders, fired from her \$260,000 a year job in 2006, sued Thomas and Madison Square Garden. Her case presented the Garden as "Animal House" in sneakers, a place where nepotism, sexism, crude remarks and crass language were part of the culture.



Isiah Thomas

PSU Set for Big Game

Portland State returns home after their first win against a ranked team in two years when they face Northern Arizona on Saturday at 1:35 p.m. at PGE Park.

Last week, the Vikings overcame a pair of first-half mistakes for a 28-21 win at 21st-ranked Eastern Washington. The Vikings committed two turnovers after long drives and trailed 14-7 at halftime. But a nice mix of runs and passes in the second half led to three touchdowns.

Roosevelt-Jefferson Battle Friday Night

High-school football rivalries once again dominate the local sports landscape this Friday with a full slate of conference match-ups beginning at 7 p.m.

The game to watch involves Roosevelt High School hosting the neighboring Jefferson Democrats. Benson versus Madison on the Lincoln field also promises to be hot.

Other grudge matches are set for Grant at Franklin, Lincoln at Wilson and Cleveland at Marshall. Tickets are \$6 at the gate, \$2 for students.

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