

Tribeca a neat package

WINFRED B. CROSS

Test Drive



Subaru has tried hard to drop its reputation for building strange and quirky cars. The current Outback sedan and WRXi restate that fact.

So along comes the B9 Tribeca and it's nearly back to square one.

It's not that the Tribeca is a bad vehicle - far from that. It's one of the best Subarus ever built. It's certainly the biggest. It's built on a stretched and widened Outback chassis.

It's the somewhat odd exterior that may keep this from becoming a sought-after vehicle. The rear looks a bit like the Porsche Cayenne. But that grill causes some

second looks. The front is a tribute to the airplanes that started the company. It's not huge, but the three-piece look is wide. I like it, but I've heard some negative stuff.

I've heard nothing but great things about the interior. It's got lots of style and lots of buttons and gadgets if you go for the Limited. The dash is a dual cockpit design with a neat touch-screen navigation system sitting in the center. The dash is covered with a leather-feeling material and there is a good bit of metal and other high quality materials used. The seats are covered in leather, with spots for seven people. The third row can be folded for more storage space.

The engine is a 3.0-liter boxer that makes 250 horsepower and 215 foot-pound of torque. The five-speed automatic can be shifted manual-

ly or in the set-it-forget-it mode. Even under hard acceleration the transmission shifts crisply.

Handling is pretty good for a near midsize SUV. Permanent AWD keeps you planted on all fours and the suspension gives a comfortable but firm ride. Mileage isn't great, however. Expect around 18 in the city and 23 on the highway.

The Limited version gives you lots of standard equipment including power driver and passenger seats, navigation system, ABS, rear seat entertainment system, sunroof, third row seating, rear climate system, traction control, 18-inch wheels and bunches of air bags.

You get all that by paying \$39,099. That's big, but the Tribeca is a neatly packaged vehicle that has a lot of appeal.

Shell's charge: Just win, Raiders

By Josh Dubow
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ALAMEDA, Calif. - Al Davis had grown sick of watching his rivals beat up on the Oakland Raiders, outplaying, outcoaching and even out-toughing his team.

The swagger that once made the Raiders the NFL's most intimidating team and contributed so much to his mantras of "Commitment to Excellence" and "Just Win Baby" had long left the franchise.

After suffering through three straight losing seasons for the first time since joining the franchise more than four decades ago, Davis reached back into the past to try to restore that aura.

Davis introduced Art Shell as his new coach Saturday, bringing back his former Hall of Fame offensive lineman and head coach to turn his struggling organization around.

"It may take us a short while, but we'll get that nastiness of the Raiders back," Davis said. "That's one of the reasons I'm going to depend on the great Art Shell to help us get that done."

Davis admitted Shell was the team's second choice after Louisville coach Bobby Petrino turned down an offer. And Shell will have a tough job ahead of him.

The Raiders have won just 13 games the

past three seasons, including only one against division rivals Denver, Kansas City and San Diego in coach Norv Turner's two years at the helm.

Davis talked about how much the Broncos, Chiefs and Chargers hate the Raiders and he wants a coach who can instill the importance of that rivalry into his players. Shell is ready for the challenge.

"When you walk out there, when you into that stadium, you walk out there with a presence. Mr. Davis called it a swagger," Shell said. "I just want to get back to the point where when we walk into a stadium, they know the Raiders are in town. And when we walk into the Coliseum, the Raiders are here. ... We've got to create that attitude, and that's what I expect to do."

Shell hasn't been a head coach since the Raiders fired him following the 1994 season and hasn't worked on the sidelines at all since leaving his job as an assistant with the Atlanta Falcons five years ago.

Even though he has spent the last five years in the NFL office, Shell is confident the game has not passed him by. Defensive coordinator Rob Ryan is staying with the team and Shell will have to hire an offensive coordinator after Jimmy Raye left to take a job with the New York Jets.

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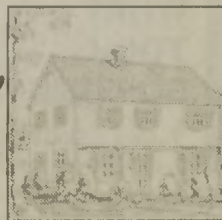
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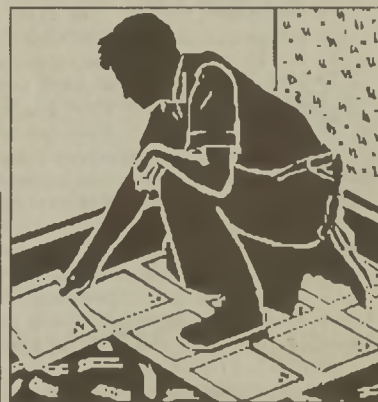
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