



Analyzing the New England Dodge Dealers 75 at Thompson Intl. Speedway

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (June 12, 2008) – Following nearly a month layoff the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour will return to the asphalt at Thompson (Conn.) International Speedway with the New England Dodge Dealers 75 presented by Charter Cable, Internet & Telephone on Thursday, June 19.

At Thompson International Speedway:

- Since the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour formed in 1985, there have been 101 races at Thompson International Speedway.
- In the first NWMT event at TIS – the 1985 Icebreaker – **Richie Evans** won the pole and took the checkered flag.
- There have been 29 different race winners at TIS, led by **Mike Stefanik's** 14 victories.
- **Jeff Fuller**, who will be honored prior to the race as part of NASCAR's celebration of 60 years of Modified champions, is tied with **Tony Hirschman** for the most poles won at TIS with 13 ... There have been 34 different pole winners at TIS.
- **Ed Flemke Jr.** won the first NWMT race of the year at TIS, the Icebreaker ... There has not been a back-to-back winner at TIS since Hirschman in 2003.
- There have been 11 different winners in the last 12 races at TIS.
- The TIS record for the longest winning streak is four, shared by Evans, Fuller, Stefanik and **Steve Park**.
- Park (1996) and Stefanik (1998) are the only drivers to sweep every race at TIS in a calendar year.
- This race will feature 10 drivers who have previously reached Victory Lane at TIS.

Thompson Intl. Speedway Data

Race # 4 of 16 (6-19-08)

Track Layout: .625-mile banked oval

- The first asphalt track in the United States, and the largest track in New England at the time, TIS opened on May 26, 1940.
- Has one of the oldest NASCAR affiliations in the nation.
- Has held a total of 101 NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour races.
- This is the second of five races that the NWMT will have at TIS in 2008.

Qualifying/Race Data

2007 pole winner: Richard Savary (120.605 mph, 18.656 seconds)

2007 race winner: Donny Lia, 60.403 mph, 6-21-07)

Track qualifying record: Todd Szegedy (121.905 mph, 18.457 seconds, 4-14-07)

Track race record (125 L): John Blewett III (96.783 mph, 10-27-02)

NWMT Active Win Leaders at TIS

1. Mike Stefanik	14
2. Rick Fuller.....	8
3. Ted Christopher.....	6
Reggie Ruggiero.....	6
4. Ed Flemke Jr.	4
5. Todd Szegedy	2

NWMT Active Pole Leaders at TIS

1. Mike Stefanik	8
2. Reggie Ruggiero.....	5
3. Ted Christopher.....	4
Ed Flemke Jr.	4
5. Todd Szegedy	3

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Season Recap:

- There have been three different race victors and three different pole winners through the first three events this year.
- **Ed Flemke Jr.** ended a 53-race winless drought at the Icebreaker at TIS by earning his 17th career victory.
- **Ted Christopher** earned his 26th career NWMT victory as he took the checkered flag in the Tech-Net Spring Sizzler at Stafford Motor Speedway.
- **Chuck Hossfeld** earned the Coors Light Pole Award, nabbed the No. 1 bead in the redraw and took the checkered flag in the TSI Harley-Davidson 150 in the most recent race at SMS.
- **Ryan Preece**, at 17 years old, became the youngest driver in NWMT history to earn the Coors Light Pole Award when he did it prior to the Spring Sizzler at SMS.

Selected Driver Highlights:

Eric Beers (No. 46 Chevrolet)

- Has two wins and six poles in 115 career starts.
- Has one career victory at TIS (9-10-06).
- Finished in the top five in both Stafford races this year.
- Has led the second most laps (164) among all drivers at TIS in the last five years.

Jimmy Blewett (No. 19 Chevrolet)

- Has two wins and one pole in 49 career starts.
- Has three top-fives in 14 career starts at TIS ... His best finish at the track is second (10-15-06).
- Originally finished fifth in the second Stafford race, but was penalized to the end of the field (31st) for failing post-race inspection.
- Currently tied for the northeast region lead with eight weekly racing feature wins.

NWMT at TIS – Last Five Years

Best Avg. Start Position (Min. 5 Starts)

1. Todd Szegedy	8.4
2. Jimmy Blewett	10.3
3. Ted Christopher.....	10.9
4. Ronnie Silk	11.1
5. Tony Ferrante Jr.....	12.3

Best Avg. Finish (Min. 5 Starts)

1. Reggie Ruggiero.....	7.8
2. Chuck Hossfeld	9.8
3. Mike Stefanik	12.2
4. Ted Christopher.....	12.4
5. Ed Flemke Jr.	13.3

Most Top-Fives

1. Ted Christopher.....	9
Chuck Hossfeld	9
3. Ed Flemke Jr.	8
4. Mike Stefanik	6
5. Reggie Ruggiero.....	5

Most Top-10s

1. Mike Stefanik	12
2. Ted Christopher.....	11
3. Chuck Hossfeld	10
4. Ed Flemke Jr.	9
5. Reggie Ruggiero.....	7
Zach Sylvester.....	7

Most Laps Led

1. Ted Christopher.....	345
2. Eric Beers	164
3. James Civali	162
4. Todd Szegedy	141
5. Mike Stefanik	117

- 19 races held.
- 12-different winners.
- Only active drivers listed above.

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Ted Christopher (No. 36 Chevrolet)

- Has 28 wins and 13 poles in 248 career starts.
- Won the Spring Sizzler at SMS on April 27.
- Has at least one victory in 10 consecutive seasons.
- Is 36 points behind leader Hossfeld in the season standings.
- Has six wins and four poles in his NWMT career at TIS.
- Finished 10th at the Icebreaker in April.
- In the last five years at TIS he has led more laps (345) and has more top five finishes (9) than any other driver.
- Has led 79 of 445 (17.7%) completed laps this year.

James Civali (No. 28 Chevrolet)

- Has four wins in 39 career starts, including one at TIS on April 15, 2007.
- Earned first career pole in the season-opener at TIS.
- Has finished in the top 10 in six of his 11 career starts at TIS.
- Is fourth in the season standings, 68 points behind leader Hossfeld.

Ed Flemke Jr. (No. 10 Chevrolet)

- Won the season-opener at TIS, ending a 53-race victory drought.
- Has 17 wins and 16 poles in 357 career starts.
- Has four wins and four poles in his career at TIS.
- Is sixth in the season standings after three races.
- Has made a record 298 consecutive starts ... The last time he did not start an NWMT event was on July 22, 1992 at Riverside Park Speedway.

Rick Fuller (No. 77)

- 1993 NWMT Champion ... Will be honored prior to Sept. 7 event at TIS.
- Has 20 wins and 11 poles in 429 career starts ... Last won at Waterford in May, 2003.
- Has registered six top-10 finishes in 15 starts during the last five years at TIS.
- Has eight career wins at TIS to rank third in the all-time list behind Stefanik (14) and his brother Jeff (10).

Bobby Grigas III (No. 09 Chevrolet)

- Registered best career finish (third) at the Icebreaker.
- Led the first laps of his career in the Icebreaker, and registered a career-high 54 laps led at SMS in the most recent race ... His 66 total laps led this year rank third among all drivers.
- With 19 career starts, he is still looking for his first career victory.

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Matt Hirschman (No. 59 Chevrolet)

- Has finished in the top 10 in three of 12 career starts at TIS.
- Has finished on the lead lap in 20 consecutive races, the most among all drivers.
- Is currently ninth in the season standings.
- Finished third in the 2007 standings with 11 top-10s in 16 outings.
- Is the son of five-time NWMT Champion Tony Hirschman.

Chuck Hossfeld (No. 4 Dodge)

- Current NWMT points leader, 36 ahead of Christopher.
- Has finished in the top three in each of the season's first three races.
- Ended a 48-race winless drought by capturing the TSI Harley-Davidson 150 at SMS.
- Has led a series-high 85 laps this year, or roughly one out of every five laps completed.
- Has six wins in 98 career starts, including one victory at TIS.
- Has earned one pole at TIS, and has eight total in his career.
- Has 10 top-10 finishes in his last 15 starts at TIS.

Rowan Pennink (No. 93 Chevrolet)

- Is fifth in the season standings with two top-10 finishes.
- Has finished in the top 15 five races in a row, tied with Christopher for the longest current streak.
- Now in his second season, he has 17 career starts.

Ronnie Silk (No. 79 Pontiac)

- Best finish this year is 21st at the Icebreaker ... Has completed just 328 of 445 laps this year due to accidents.
- Has one win and 14 top-10s in 43 NWMT career starts.
- Is second in driver points after three races in the NASCAR Whelen Southern Modified Tour.

Mike Stefanik (No. 16 Pontiac)

- Seven-time NWMT Champion ... Was honored as part of NASCAR's 60 years of Modified champions celebration prior to the TSI Harley-Davidson 150 at SMS.
- Has a NWMT record 68 victories in 368 career starts.
- Has a record 14 wins at TIS ... Last win was the 2006 Icebreaker.
- Has 12 top 10s in 18 starts at TIS during the last five years.
- Has finished in the top five in the last two races this year and is currently eighth in points.

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Todd Szegedy (No. 2 Ford)

- The 2003 NWMT Champion ... Will be honored at New Hampshire on Sept. 28.
- Has 12 wins in 97 career starts, the best start-to-victory ratio (8:1) of any active driver.
- Is in third place in season points, 61 behind Hossfeld.
- Has two wins and three poles in his career at TIS.

Jamie Tomaino (No. 99 Chevrolet)

- The 1990 NWMT Champion ... Will be honored at Spencer Speedway on July 12.
- Has six top 10s in 19 races at TIS during in the last five years.
- Has only missed four of the 492 races in the history of the NWMT (1985-pr.).
- Is one of three drivers (Rick Fuller, Carl Pasteryak) to make a start in all 24 years of the NWMT.

Upcoming Milestones/Benchmarks:

- **Ted Christopher** has 28 career victories ... The next win would put him in sole possession of fifth place on all-time list, passing **Mike Ewanitsko**.
- **Mike Stefanik** has 40 career pole wins ... The next would place him in a tie with **Tony Hirschman** for the all-time lead.
- **Jamie Tomaino** will extend his own series record by making his 489th career start.
- With a start at TIS, Tomaino will pass \$1 million in career earnings.
- **Jimmy Blewett** looks to make his 50th career start.
- Christopher is two starts away from 250 for his career.
- **Chuck Hossfeld** is two starts away from 100 for his career.
- **Todd Szegedy** is three starts away from 100 for his career.
- **Ed Flemke Jr.** is two starts away from 300 consecutive starts.