

Statistical Advance:
Analyzing the Sunoco Modified Mania 150 at Thompson Intl. Speedway

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (Sept. 1, 2008) – The Sunoco Modified Mania 150 will be the fourth of five appearances in 2008 at Thompson (Conn.) International Speedway for the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour. The n1th race of the season will go green on Sunday, Sept. 7.

At Thompson International Speedway:

- Since the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour formed in 1985, there have been 103 races at Thompson International Speedway.
- There have been 29 different race winners at TIS, led by **Mike Stefanik's** 14 victories.
- **Tony Hirschman** is tied with **Jeff Fuller** for the most poles won at TIS with 13 ... There have been 35 different pole winners at TIS.
- **Ed Flemke Jr.** won the first NWMT race of the year at TIS, the Icebreaker ... **Ronnie Silk** has since captured the June and August races at TIS.
- Silk became the first back-to-back winner at TIS since Tony Hirschman in 2003.
- This race could feature 11 drivers who have previously reached Victory Lane at TIS.

Season Recap:

- **Ted Christopher** assumed the season points lead for the first time last week at Mansfield (Ohio) Motorsports Park when he captured the Whelen 150 ... He also won the Tech-Net Spring Sizzler earlier this year at Stafford (Conn.) Motor Speedway.
- **Chuck Hossfeld**, who led in points for eight straight races, is now 60 points behind Christopher... He has victories at SMS (5/23) and New Hampshire Motor Speedway (6/28).

Thompson Intl. Speedway Data

Race # 11 of 16 (9-7-08)

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 103 NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour races.
- This is the fourth of five races that the NWMT will have at TIS in 2008.

Qualifying/Race Data

2007 pole winner: Donny Lia (118.189 mph, 18.885 seconds)

2007 race winner: Ronnie Silk, 79.055 mph, 1:10:35, 9-23-07)

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

Track race record (150 L): Eric Beers (81.660 mph, 1:08.53, 9-10-06)

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. Ronnie Silk	3

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

2-2-2-2

ANALYZING THE SUNOCO MODIFIED MANIA 150

- **Ronnie Silk** won the last race at Thompson (Conn.) International Speedway ... He has two wins this year, both at TIS.
- **Jimmy Blewett** won back-to-back races at Riverhead Raceway (8/2) and SMS (8/8).
- **Ed Flemke Jr.** captured the season-opener at TIS (4/6), his first victory since 2004.
- **Matt Hirschman** earned his first career NWMT victory at Spencer Speedway on July 12.
- **James Civali, Bobby Grigas III and Ryan Preece** have earned their first career poles in 2008.

Last Time Out – Mansfield, Aug. 23:

- **Ted Christopher** earned his second win of the season and took the season points lead in the process ... He also moved past Mike Ewanitsko into sole possession of fifth place on the NWMT all-time wins list.
- **Ryan Preece** recorded his best career finish, third.
- Rookie **Erick Rudolph** registered a seventh place finish, the best in his six career starts.
- Richmond Corwin Jr., part owner of **Glen Tyler's** No. 8 team, fielded a second car for driver **Dion Ciccarelli** with a SPEC engine ... It was the second time a SPEC had been run in an NWMT race ... **L.W. Miller** ran a SPEC at NHMS in June.

Selected Driver Highlights:

Eric Beers (No. 46 Chevrolet)

- Has two wins and eight poles in 122 career starts.
- Has five top-five finishes in 10 starts this year.
- Won at TIS on Sept. 10, 2006.

Jimmy Blewett (No. 19 Chevrolet)

- Has four wins and one pole in 56 career starts.
- Earned his first NWMT wins at Riverhead on Aug. 2, and at SMS on Aug. 8.
- Is eighth in the NWMT season standings and was 14th in last week's NASCAR Whelen All-American Series national Top 500 before adding a win at Thompson on Thursday.

2008 Statistical Leaders

Driver Points

1. Ted Christopher	1504
2. Chuck Hossfeld.....	1444
3. Matt Hirschman.....	1418
4. Mike Stefanik	1378
5. Ronnie Silk.....	1338

Wins

1. Ted Christopher	2
Jimmy Blewett.....	2
Chuck Hossfeld.....	2
Ronnie Silk.....	2
5. Ed Flemke Jr.....	1
Matt Hirschman.....	1

Top-Five Finishes

1. Ted Christopher	7
2. Chuck Hossfeld.....	6
3. Eric Beers	5
Ronnie Silk.....	5
Mike Stefanik	5

Top-10 Finishes

1. Ted Christopher	8
Mike Stefanik	8
3. Eric Beers	6
Matt Hirschman.....	6
Chuck Hossfeld.....	6
Ronnie Silk.....	6
Todd Szegedy.....	6

Laps Led

1. Ted Christopher	428
2. Todd Szegedy.....	142
3. Ryan Preece	135
4. Bobby Grigas III	118
5. Chuck Hossfeld.....	115

Laps Completed

1. Matt Hirschman.....	1328 (all)
2. Rowan Pennink.....	1302
3. Todd Szegedy.....	1296
4. Ken Heagy	1272
5. Mike Stefanik	1266

3-3-3-3

ANALYZING THE SUNOCO MODIFIED MANIA 150

Ted Christopher (No. 36 Chevrolet)

- Has 29 wins and 13 poles in 255 career starts.
- Has a 60-point lead in the season standings over Chuck Hossfeld.
- Won the last time out at Mansfield on Aug. 23 ... Also won the Tech-Net Spring Sizzler at SMS on April 27.
- Has at least one victory in 10 consecutive seasons.
- Has led 428 of 1328 (32%) total laps this year, nearly three times as many as any other driver.
- Has six career NWMT wins at TIS ... The next would put him in sole possession of fifth on the NWMT wins list at TIS.

Doug Coby (No. 28 Chevrolet)

- Will drive the No. 28 of Don King this week ... Shares the ride with Woody Pitkat.
- Has one win 11 top fives and 24 top 10s in 77 career starts.
- Was 16th in last week's NWAAS National Top 500 standings.

Ed Flemke Jr. (No. 10 Chevrolet)

- Won the season-opener at TIS.
- Has 17 wins and 16 poles in 364 career starts.
- Has made a record 305 consecutive starts ... The last time he did not start an NWMT race was on July 22, 1992 at Riverside Park Speedway.

Rick Fuller (No. 77)

- 1993 NWMT Champion ... Will be honored prior to this race as part of NASCAR's celebration of 60 Years of Modified Champions.
- Has 20 wins and 11 poles in 434 career starts ... Last won at Waterford in May, 2003.
- Has eight career wins at TIS, tied for third-most all-time ... Last win was the 2001 Icebreaker.

Bobby Grigas III (No. 09 Chevrolet)

- Captured his first career Coors Light Pole Award at TIS on June 19.
- Registered best career finish, third, at TIS in this year's Icebreaker.

Matt Hirschman (No. 59 Chevrolet)

- Has 25 top 10s in 49 career starts.
- Earned his first NWMT win at Spencer on July 12.
- Has finished on the lead lap in 27 consecutive races, the most among all drivers ... Is the only driver to complete all 1328 laps this year.
- Has top-10s in six of the last eight races and is up to third in the standings, his highest ranking this year.

4-4-4-4

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Chuck Hossfeld (No. 4 Dodge)

- Trails Ted Christopher by 60 points in the season standings ... Maintained the points lead for eight weeks before the last race at Mansfield.
- Finished in the top four in each of the season's first six races ... Last four outings have resulted in finishes ranging from 15th to 28th.
- Has won this year at SMS (5/23) and NHMS (6/28).
- Has seven wins, 42 top fives and 61 top 10s in 105 career starts.
- Has one win at TIS, the 2003 Icebreaker.

Ryan Preece (No. 3 Chevrolet)

- Has one pole and seven top 10s in 24 career starts.
- Currently ranks 11th in the season standings with five top 10s in 10 starts.
- Recorded best career finish, third, last time out at Mansfield.
- Has led 135 laps this year, third among all drivers.

Ronnie Silk (No. 79 Pontiac)

- Has won back-to-back races at TIS ... All three of his career wins have come at TIS ... Has won three of last five NWMT races at TIS, dating back to 2007.
- Is fifth in the standings, his highest ranking this year ... Has top-10 finishes in six of the last seven races, including two wins.
- Has 19 top-10s in 49 career NWMT starts.

Mike Stefanik (No. 16 Pontiac)

- Seven-time NWMT Champion ... Was honored at SMS on May 23.
- Has a NWMT record 68 victories in 375 career starts.
- Has eight top 10s in 2008 and is fourth in the season standings.
- Is the all-time NWMT wins leader at TIS with 14 ... Last win was the 2006 Icebreaker.

Todd Szegedy (No. 2 Ford)

- The 2003 NWMT Champion ... Will be honored at New Hampshire on Sept. 13.
- Has 12 wins in 104 career starts, the best start-to-victory ratio (9:1) of any active driver.
- Like Chuck Hossfeld, he finished in the top 10 in each of the season's first six races, but not in the four outings since.

Jamie Tomaino (No. 99 Chevrolet)

- The 1990 NWMT Champion ... Was honored at Spencer on July 12.
- Has missed only four of the 497 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.

5-5-5-5

ANALYZING THE SUNOCO MODIFIED MANIA 150

Upcoming Milestones/Benchmarks:

- With a win in this race, **Ronnie Silk** would become the first driver to capture three-straight races at Thompson International Speedway since **Mike Stefanik** swept all four dates in 1998.
- **Todd Szegedy's** next win would be the 13th of his career, which would put him in sole possession of 13th on the all-time list.
- **Mike Stefanik** has 40 career poles ... 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 494th career start.
- **Ed Flemke Jr.** is expected to extend his record consecutive starts streak to 306.

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