



Statistical Advance:

Analyzing The Made In America Whelen 300 At Martinsville Speedway

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (Sept. 15, 2008) – The 500th race in NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour history will take place at Martinsville (Va.) Speedway this Saturday, Sept. 20 when the Made In America Whelen 300 goes green at 3:30 p.m.

At Martinsville Speedway:

- Since the inaugural season of the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour in 1985, there have been 31 races held at Martinsville.
- Since 1985 the NWMT has held races at Martinsville in all but six years (1993-96, 2003-04).
- **Mike Ewanitsko, Jeff Fuller, Reggie Ruggiero** and **Mike Stefanik** are all tied atop the NWMT wins list at Martinsville with four.
- This will be the fourth annual Made In America Whelen 300, a combination race that brings both the NWMT and NASCAR Whelen Southern Modified Tour together for a race.
- **Ted Christopher, Jimmy Blewett** and **Donny Lia** – all drivers from the northern series – have won each of the first three Made In America Whelen 300 races.
- The first two years of the Made In America Whelen 300 featured a 50-lap qualifier and a 250-lap main ... For the second year in a row the race will be run in two segments with a 10 minute break at the conclusion of Lap 150.

Last Time Out – New Hampshire, Sept. 13:

- The race featured 15 lead changes, six more than in any of the previous 11 events this year ... It was also the most since there were 17 changes at the front on Sept. 15, 2006, also at NHMS.

Martinsville Speedway Data

Race # 13 of 16 (9-20-08)

Track Layout: 0.526-mile oval

- Martinsville, which predates NASCAR by one year, opened in 1947.
- Red Byron, inaugural NASCAR Modified champion in 1948, won the first race at Martinsville in 1947.
- Martinsville has held 31 NWMT races since the series began in 1985.

Qualifying/Race Data

2007 pole winner: Donny Lia (100.440 mph, 18.853 sec.)

2007 race winner: Donny Lia (52.498 mph, 3 hrs., 21 sec.)

Track qualifying record: Greg Sacks (101.014 mph, 18.746 sec., 3-23-86)

Active Win Leaders at Martinsville

1. Reggie Ruggiero.....	4
Mike Stefanik	4
3. Jimmy Blewett	1
Ted Christopher.....	1

Active Pole Leaders at Martinsville

1. Mike Stefanik	4
2. Ed Flemke Jr.	1
Rick Fuller.....	1
Chuck Hossfeld	1
Reggie Ruggiero.....	1
Rob Summers.....	1

2007 Top Five Race Finishers

1. Donny Lia
2. Ted Christopher
3. L.W. Miller
4. James Civali
5. Tim Brown

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ANALYZING THE MADE IN AMERICA WHELEN 300

- **Ted Christopher** registered his third win of the season ... In the process, he extended his own New Hampshire Motor Speedway record for wins to 10.
- **Christopher** extended his lead in season points to 99 over **Matt Hirschman**.
- **Ryan Preece** tied his career best with a third-place finish.
- **Danny Sammons** finished fifth, his best performance in 2008.
- Hirschman registered his eighth top 10 finish of the season to pass **Chuck Hossfeld** for second in the season standings.
- For the fourth time in seven starts this year, **Erick Rudolph** was the highest placing rookie as he finished seventh.

Season Recap:

- **Ted Christopher** assumed the season points lead for the first time at Mansfield (Ohio) Motorsports Park when he captured the Whelen 150 ... He also won the Tech-Net Spring Sizzler at Stafford (Conn.) Motor Speedway and won the last week at NHMS.
- **Matt Hirschman** earned his first career NWMT victory at Spencer Speedway on July 12 ... He is second in points, 99 behind Christopher.
- **Chuck Hossfeld**, who led in points for eight straight races, is now 167 points behind Christopher... He has victories at SMS (5/23) and NHMS (6/28).
- **Todd Szegedy** won at Thompson (Conn.) International Speedway on Sept. 7 ... It was his first win of 2008, and 13th of his career.
- **Ronnie Silk** 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.
- **James Civali, Bobby Grigas III** and **Ryan Preece** have earned their first career poles in 2008.

2008 Statistical Leaders

Driver Points

1. Ted Christopher.....	1805
2. Matt Hirschman	1706
3. Chuck Hossfeld	1638
4. Todd Szegedy	1633
5. Ronnie Silk	1614

Wins

1. Ted Christopher.....	3
2. Jimmy Blewett	2
Chuck Hossfeld	2
Ronnie Silk	2
5. Ed Flemke Jr.	1
Matt Hirschman	1
Todd Szegedy	1

Top-Five Finishes

1. Ted Christopher.....	8
2. Chuck Hossfeld	6
Ronnie Silk	6
4. Eric Beers	5
Jimmy Blewett	5
Mike Stefanik	5

Top-10 Finishes

1. Ted Christopher.....	9
2. Eric Beers	8
Matt Hirschman	8
Mike Stefanik	8
5. Ronnie Silk	7
Todd Szegedy	7

Laps Led

1. Ted Christopher.....	572
2. Todd Szegedy	164
3. Ryan Preece	136
4. Chuck Hossfeld	130
5. Jimmy Blewett	119

Laps Completed

1. Matt Hirschman	1581 (all)
2. Todd Szegedy	1548
3. Rowan Pennink	1530
4. Ken Heagy	1522
5. Eric Beers	1476

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Selected Driver Highlights:

Eric Beers (No. 46 Chevrolet)

- Has two wins and eight poles in 124 career starts.
- Has five top-five finishes in 12 starts this year.
- Finished fourth in the 2005 Made In America Whelen 300.

Jimmy Blewett (No. 19 Chevrolet)

- Has four wins and one pole in 58 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 11th in last week's NASCAR Whelen All-American Series Top 500.
- Won the 2006 Made In America Whelen 300.

Ted Christopher (No. 86 Chevrolet)

- Has 30 wins and 13 poles in 257 career starts.
- Has a 99-point lead in the season standings over Matt Hirschman.
- Has 2008 wins at SMS (April 27), Mansfield Motorsports Park (Aug. 23) and NHMS (Sept. 13).
- Has at least one victory in 10 consecutive seasons.
- Has led 572 of 1581 (36%) total laps this year, three times as many as any other driver.
- Won the 2005 Made In America Whelen 300 and was the runner-up in 2006 and 2007.

Ed Flemke Jr. (No. 10 Chevrolet)

- Won the season-opener at TIS.
- Has 17 wins and 16 poles in 366 career starts.
- Has made a record 307 consecutive starts ... The last time he did not start an NWMT race was on July 22, 1992 at Riverside Park Speedway.
- Best Made In America Whelen 300 finish was 12th in 2006.

Rick Fuller (No. 77)

- 1993 NWMT Champion ... Was honored on Sept. 7 at TIS.
- Has 20 wins and 11 poles in 436 career starts ... Last won at Waterford in May, 2003.
- Registered runner-up finishes at Martinsville in 1991, 2001 and 2002.

Matt Hirschman (No. 59 Chevrolet)

- Has a win and 26 top 10s in 51 career starts ... Earned his first NWMT win at Spencer on July 12.
- Has finished on the lead lap in 29 consecutive races, the most among all drivers ... Is the only driver to complete all 1581 laps this year.
- Has top-10s in eight of the last 10 races and is second in the standings, his highest ranking so far this year.

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Matt Hirschman (continued)

- Will also compete in the NASCAR Camping World Series East race on Friday at Dover (Del.) International Speedway for Gillett Evernham Motorsports in the No. 9 car ... In his debut in the car last week at NHMS he finished fourth.
- Finished seventh in his Martinsville debut in 2006 and was 26th a year ago.

Chuck Hossfeld (No. 4 Dodge)

- Is now third in the season standings behind Christopher (+167) and Hirschman (+68) ... Maintained the points lead for eight weeks before Christopher passed him at MMP.
- Finished in the top four in each of the season's first six races ... Last six outings have resulted in finishes ranging from 15th to 28th.
- Has wins this year at SMS (May 23) and NHMS (June 28).
- Has seven wins, 42 top fives and 61 top 10s in 107 career starts.
- Captured the pole in the inaugural Made In America Whelen 300.

Rowan Pennink (No. 93 Chevrolet)

- Is ninth in the season standings.
- Has four top 10s in 12 starts in 2008 and five total in 26 career starts.
- Has completed 1530 laps this year, third among all drivers.

Woody Pitkat (No. 88 Chevrolet)

- Shares the ride with Doug Coby.
- Had five top 10s in 13 career NWMT starts ... This will be his fifth start of 2008.
- Was 12th in last week's NASCAR Whelen All-American Series national rankings with six wins.

Ryan Preece (No. 3 Chevrolet)

- Has one pole and eight top 10s in 26 career starts.
- Currently ranks 10th in the season standings with six top 10s in 12 starts.
- Recorded best career finish, third, at MMP ... Matched that at NHMS on Sept. 13.
- Has led 136 laps this year, third among all drivers.

Glen Reen (No. 7 Chevrolet)

- Top-ranking rookie ... Is 17th in the season standings and first in rookie points.
- Has three top 10s in 12 starts with best finishes of sixth at Spencer and TIS.

Bobby Santos (No. 90 Chevrolet)

- Has four top 10s in six starts in 2008.
- Has a win, five top fives and 12 top 10s in 26 career NWMT starts.

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Ronnie Silk (No. 79 Pontiac)

- Has won two races in 2008, both at TIS.
- Is fifth in the standings ... Has top-10 finishes in seven of the last nine races, including two wins.
- Has three wins and 20 top-10s in 51 career NWMT starts ... All three wins have come at TIS.

Mike Stefanik (No. 16 Pontiac)

- Seven-time NWMT Champion ... Was honored at SMS on May 23.
- Has a NWMT record 68 victories in 377 career starts.
- Has eight top 10s in 2008 and is seventh in the season standings.
- Has four career wins at Martinsville ... Was second in the 2005 Made In American Whelen 300.

Todd Szegedy (No. 2 Ford)

- The 2003 NWMT Champion ... Was honored at NHMS on Sept. 13.
- Has 13 wins in 106 career starts, the best start-to-victory ratio (8:1) of any active driver.
- Has two top 10s in three Made In American Whelen 300 starts.

Jamie Tomaino (No. 99 Chevrolet)

- The 1990 NWMT Champion ... Was honored at Spencer on July 12.
- Has missed only four of the 499 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:

- The Made In American Whelen 300 at Martinsville will be the 500th all-time race in NWMT history.
- A race win or a pole for **Mike Stefanik** would be Martinsville records ... He is currently tied for the NWMT wins lead at the track with three other drivers with four, and shares the pole lead with two other competitors, also at four.
- **Ted Christopher's** next win would place him in a tie with **Jeff Fuller** for fourth on the NWMT all-time wins list at 31.
- **Jamie Tomaino** will extend his own series record by making his 496th career start.
- **Ed Flemke Jr.** is expected to extend his record consecutive starts streak to 308.

For more information, contact:

Jason Cunningham, NASCAR Public Relations, (704) 201-6658 or jcunningham@nascar.com.