



Statistical Advance:

Analyzing The Xtra Mart World Series At Thompson International Speedway

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (Oct. 13, 2008) – The 2008 NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour championship will be on the line this weekend as the season concludes with the Xtra Mart World Series at Thompson (Conn.) International Speedway.

At Thompson International Speedway:

- Since the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour formed in 1985, there have been 105 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.
- **Todd Szegedy** won the most-recent race at TIS on Sept. 7 ... **Ed Flemke Jr.** won the first NWMT race of the year at TIS ... **Ronnie Silk** captured the June and August races.
- There are nine drivers on the entry list who have previously reached Victory Lane at TIS.
- In the first 23 years of the NWMT there have been 15 different drivers win the World Series, led by Fuller and **Reggie Ruggiero** with three apiece.

Last Time Out – Stafford, Oct. 12:

- **Mike Stefanik** registered his first win of 2008, the 69th of his career, his 20th at SMS and his eighth in the Fall Final.
- **Matt Hirschman** was the race runner-up and gained 20 points on **Ted Christopher** to draw within 35 points of the championship lead.

Thompson Intl. Speedway Data

Race # 16 of 16 (10-19-08)

Track Layout: .625-mile 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 105 NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour races.
- This is the fifth and final race that the NWMT will have at TIS in 2008.

Qualifying/Race Data

2007 pole winner: Tony Ferrante Jr. (120.656 mph, 18.648 seconds)

2007 race winner: Bobby Santos III, (77.658 mph, 1:12.26)

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 |
| Todd Szegedy | 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 XTRA MART WORLD SERIES

- Stefanik led all but 21 laps of the 150-lap race.
- **Anthony Sesely** (eighth) and **Glenn Tyler** (ninth) recorded their best finishes of the season.
- Stefanik earned his first Coors Light Pole Award of the season.

Season Recap:

- With one race remaining only **Ted Christopher** and **Matt Hirschman** are mathematically eligible to win the championship ... Christopher enters this week with a 35-point lead.
- 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 the New Hampshire 100.
- Hirschman earned his first career NWMT victory at Spencer Speedway on July 12 ... He also won at Chemung Speedrome .
- **Chuck Hossfeld**, who led in points for eight straight races, is now 180 behind Christopher ... He has victories at SMS (5/23) and New Hampshire Motor Speedway (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.
- **Ryan Preece** garnered his first career NWMT victory at Martinsville (Va.) Speedway.

Selected Driver Highlights:

Eric Beers (No. 46 Chevrolet)

- Has two wins and eight poles in 127 career starts.
- Has six top-five finishes and two poles in 15 starts this year and ranks seventh in the standings.
- Has registered finishes that range from 10th to 32nd in the first four races of the year at TIS.

2008 Statistical Leaders

Championship Contenders

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| 1. Ted Christopher..... | 2261 |
| 2. Matt Hirschman | 2226 (-35) |
| 3. Todd Szegedy | 2118 (-143) |
| 4. Chuck Hossfeld | 2081 (-180) |
| 5. Mike Stefanik | 2011 (-250) |

Wins

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| 1. Ted Christopher..... | 3 |
| 2. Jimmy Blewett | 2 |
| Matt Hirschman | 2 |
| Chuck Hossfeld | 2 |
| Ronnie Silk | 2 |

Top-Five Finishes

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| 1. Ted Christopher..... | 9 |
| 2. Chuck Hossfeld | 8 |
| 3. Ronnie Silk | 7 |
| Mike Stefanik | 7 |
| 5. Eric Beers | 6 |
| Matt Hirschman | 6 |

Top-10 Finishes

| | |
|-------------------------|----|
| 1. Ted Christopher..... | 12 |
| 2. Matt Hirschman | 11 |
| 3. Todd Szegedy | 10 |
| Mike Stefanik | 10 |
| 5. Eric Beers | 9 |

Laps Led

| | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| 1. Ted Christopher..... | 572 |
| 2. Ryan Preece | 402 |
| 3. Matt Hirschman | 224 |
| 4. Todd Szegedy | 164 |
| 5. Chuck Hossfeld | 130 |
| Mike Stefanik | 130 |

Laps Completed

| | |
|-------------------------|------------|
| 1. Matt Hirschman | 2153 (all) |
| 2. Todd Szegedy | 2120 |
| 3. Rowan Pennink | 2102 |
| 4. Eric Beers | 2047 |
| 5. Ted Christopher..... | 2047 |

3-3-3-3

ANALYZING THE XTRA MART WORLD SERIES

Jimmy Blewett (No. 19 Chevrolet)

- Has four wins and one pole in 61 career starts.
- Has reached Victory Lane this year at Riverhead on Aug. 2 and at SMS on Aug. 8.
- Is currently 10th in NWMT points with five top fives.
- Finished 11th in the final 2008 NASCAR Whelen All-American Series Top 500 standings.

Ted Christopher (No. 36 Chevrolet)

- Has 30 wins and 13 poles in 260 career starts ... Has at least one win in 10 consecutive seasons.
- Has a 35-point lead in the season standings over Matt Hirschman.
- Has 2008 wins at SMS (April 27), Mansfield Motorsports Park (Aug. 23) and New Hampshire Motor Speedway (Sept. 13).
- Has led 572 of 2153 (266.5%) total laps this year, more than any other driver.
- Has six career wins at TIS and has three top 10s in four starts there this year.

Doug Coby (No. 28 Chevrolet)

- Has two top fives in four starts this year.
- Has one win, 12 top fives and 24 top 10s in 80 career starts.
- Finished 17th in the 2008 NWAAS Top 500 standings.

Ed Flemke Jr. (No. 10 Chevrolet)

- Has 17 wins and 16 poles in 368 career starts.
- Has made a record 310 consecutive starts ... The last time he did not start an NWMT race was on July 22, 1992 at Riverside Park Speedway.
- Has four career wins at TIS, including the 2008 Icebreaker.

Rick Fuller (No. 77)

- 1993 NWMT Champion ... Was honored on Sept. 7 at TIS.
- Has 20 wins and 11 poles in 438 career starts ... Last won at Waterford in May, 2003.
- Has eight career wins at TIS, second only to Mike Stefanik's 14.

Matt Hirschman (No. 59 Chevrolet)

- Has two wins and 27 top 10s in 54 career starts ... Earned his first NWMT win at Spencer on July 12 ... Also has a win at Chemung in 2008.
- Has finished on the lead lap in 32 consecutive races, the most among all drivers ... Is the only driver to complete all 2153 laps this year.
- Has top-10s in 11 of the last 13 races, including the last eight in a row.
- Trails Ted Christopher by just 35 points in the standings, the closest he's been this year.
- Has finished 16th, seventh, second and ninth in four previous races at TIS in 2008.

4-4-4-4

ANALYZING THE XTRA MART WORLD SERIES

Chuck Hossfeld (No. 4 Dodge)

- Is now fourth in the season standings, 180 behind leader Ted Christopher ... Maintained the points lead for eight weeks before Christopher passed him at MMP.
- Has wins this year at SMS (May 23) and NHMS (June 28) ... Also won the pole at SMS.
- Has seven wins, 44 top fives and 63 top 10s in 110 career starts.

Rowan Pennink (No. 93 Chevrolet)

- Is eighth in the season standings.
- Has seven top 10s in 15 starts in 2008 and eight total in 29 career races.

Woody Pitkat (No. 88 Chevrolet)

- Has three top 10s in a row and has made six starts this year.
- Had seven top 10s in 15 career NWMT starts.
- Finished 12th in the final NASCAR Whelen All-American Series Top 500 with six wins.

Ryan Preece (No. 3 Chevrolet)

- Has two poles, a win and nine top 10s in 29 career starts.
- Currently ranks 10th in the season standings with seven top 10s in 15 starts.
- Earned his first career NWMT win at Martinsville.
- Has led 401 laps this year, second among all drivers.

Glen Reen (No. 17 Chevrolet)

- Has clinched the 2008 Sunoco Rookie of the Year ... Is 19th in the season standings.
- Has three top 10s in 15 starts with best finishes of sixth at Spencer and TIS.

Keith Rocco (No. 00 Chevrolet)

- Will attempt to make his NWMT debut in this race in the No. 00 for car owner Joe Brady.
- Finished fourth in the NWAAS Top 500 standings with 11 wins and 38 top 10s in 49 total starts ... Is the Connecticut state champion and won the SK Modified title at SMS.

Erick Rudolph (No. 45 Chevrolet)

- Has earned Sunoco Rookie of the Race honors in five of his eight starts.
- Has top-10 finishes in his last three outings, including a career-best sixth place at Chemung.

Ronnie Silk (No. 79 Pontiac)

- Has won two races in 2008, both at TIS.
- Is sixth in the standings ... Has top-10 finishes in eight of the last 12 races, including two wins.
- Has three wins and 21 top-10s in 54 career NWMT starts ... All three wins have come at TIS.

5-5-5-5

ANALYZING THE XTRA MART WORLD SERIES

Mike Stefanik (No. 16 Pontiac)

- Seven-time NWMT Champion ... Was honored at SMS on May 23.
- Garnered his first win of 2008 last time out at SMS.
- Has a NWMT record 69 victories in 380 career starts.
- Has 10 top 10s in 2008 and is fifth in the season standings.
- Is the all-time NWMT wins leader at TIS with 14 ... Has two top fives in four previous starts at TIS in 2008.

Todd Szegedy (No. 2 Ford)

- The 2003 NWMT Champion ... Was honored at NHMS on Sept. 13.
- Has 13 wins in 109 career starts, the best start-to-victory ratio (8:1) of any active driver.
- Won the last race at TIS and has three career victories at the track.

Jamie Tomaino (No. 99 Chevrolet)

- The 1990 NWMT Champion ... Was honored at Spencer on July 12.
- Has missed only four of the 502 races in the history of the NWMT (1985-pr.).
- Has four top 10s on the year and 233 in his career.
- Is one of three drivers (Rick Fuller, Carl Pasteryak) to make a start in all 24 years of the NWMT.

Upcoming Milestones/Benchmarks:

- Either **Ted Christopher** or **Matt Hirschman** are assured of winning the first NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour championships of their respective careers this week at the Xtra Mart World Series.
- If Hirschman were to win the title, he and **Tony Hirschman** would be the first son-father combination to earn series championships ... Brothers **Jeff** and **Rick Fuller** were the first family members to accomplish the feat.
- The point differential between Christopher and Hirschman entering the season finale is 35 ... The smallest championship margin of victory in NWMT history saw Tony Hirschman finish three points ahead of **Steve Park** in 1995.
- Christopher's next race win would place him in a tie with Jeff Fuller for fourth on the NWMT all-time wins list at 31.
- **Mike Stefanik's** next pole would break a tie with Tony Hirschman for the series' all-time lead, currently at 41.
- **Jamie Tomaino** will extend his own series record by making his 499th career start.
- **Ed Flemke Jr.** is expected to extend his record consecutive starts streak to 311.

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