

Statistical Advance: Analyzing The Chemung 120

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (Aug. 25, 2009) – The NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour is set to make its third and final appearance in the Empire State this year with the Chemung 120 on Saturday, Aug. 29 at Chemung (N.Y.) Speedrome.

At Chemung Speedrome:

- Chemung was originally a quarter-mile dirt oval, built in 1951 by Eli Bodine Sr. and Eli Bodine Jr. ... Sons of Eli Jr., Geoff and Brett, got their start in racing at the family's track.
- The track was expanded to a .333-mile oval and was converted to asphalt in 1969.
- The Bodine family closed the track in 1978 ... It reopened under the current ownership in 2000.
- There have been two previous NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour events at Chemung ... Jerry Marquis won the inaugural event in 2001 and Matt Hirschman was victorious in the NWMT's return in 2008.
- Chemung is one of three tracks in New York that plays host to the NWMT ... Riverhead Raceway and Spencer Speedway are the other two ... The NWMT events at all three tracks are qualifying-format races.

Up to Speed:

- **Ted Christopher** earned the Coors Light Pole Award and a trip to Victory Lane in the season opener at Thompson (Conn.) International Speedway.
- Christopher also earned the pole and the win in the second race of the year at Stafford (Conn.) Motor Speedway.
- Christopher made it three-for-three when he earned the pole for the third race of the season, also at SMS, but finished second to **Jimmy Blewett** in the race.
- Christopher became the seventh driver in NWMT history to earn at least three-consecutive pole awards, and extended his mark for consecutive poles to start a season.
- At New Hampshire Motor Speedway **Donny Lia** earned his first win of the season and the 12th of his career ... **Doug Coby** captured the pole, the second of his career.

Chemung Speedrome Data

Race: #9 of 14

Track Layout: .375-mile asphalt oval

Banking: Five degrees on the front stretch, seven on the back stretch and progressive up to 12 degrees in the turns

Race Length: 120 laps/45 miles

Qualifying/Race Data

2008 Pole Winner: Matt Hirschman (94.101 mph, 14.155 seconds) – record

2008 Race Winner: Matt Hirschman (55.925 mph, 0:49.05) – record

NWMT Chemung Pole Winners

Aug. 10, 2001 Tony Hirschman
Oct. 4, 2008 Matt Hirschman

NWMT Chemung Race Winners

Aug. 10, 2001 Jerry Marquis
Oct. 4, 2008 Matt Hirschman

2009 NWMT Points Leaders

1. Ted Christopher 1262
2. Todd Szegedy 1233
3. Ryan Preece 1230
4. Donny Lia 1180
5. Rowan Pennink 1128

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- **Erick Rudolph** became the youngest winner in NWMT history when he took the checkered flag at Spencer Speedway in Williamson, N.Y. ... Qualifying was rained out and the race was pushed back a day.
- **Ryan Preece** took the pole and the checkered flag at Riverhead (N.Y.) Raceway ... He then repeated at SMS with **Eric Berndt** earning his first career pole award.
- Lia won the inaugural event at Bristol (Tenn.) Motor Speedway ... It was the first of two scheduled combination races with the NASCAR Whelen Southern Modified Tour in 2009 ... Qualifying for the event was rained out.
- Christopher has a 29-point lead in the season standings on **Todd Szegedy** ... Christopher has maintained the lead through 14 of the last 15 races dating back to 2008.
- The eighth race of the season was to be at TIS on Aug. 13, but rain forced the event to be postponed until Sept. 3.

Selected Driver Highlights:

Eric Beers (No. 46 Chevrolet)

- Has two wins and nine poles in 135 career starts.
- Is up to seventh in points with three-straight top-15 finishes.
- Finished 16th at Chemung in 2008.

Jimmy Blewett (No. 12 Chevrolet)

- Has five wins and one pole in 70 career starts.
- Is eighth in the standings with top 10s in four of the eight races.
- Finished 21st at Chemung in 2008 ... First career NWMT start came at Chemung in 2001.

Ted Christopher (No. 36 Chevrolet)

- The 2008 NWMT champion.
- Has 33 wins and 21 poles in 273 career starts ... Has at least one win in 11 consecutive seasons ... His 33 wins rank fourth on the all-time list and his 21 poles rank ninth.
- Earned the pole award in the first three events of the year, and the race win in the first two ... Became the first driver in NWMT history to begin the season by earning multiple poles.
- Has a 29-point lead on Todd Szegedy in the standings ... Has six top fives in eight starts, with five of those either wins (2) or runner-up finishes (3).
- Has led 42-percent (478 of 1,136) of all laps run this year, more than double any other driver.
- Is fourth in the NASCAR Whelen All-American Series national standings with eight wins, 21 top 10s and 756 points in 24 starts.
- Also made three NWSMT starts at the beginning of the season and won twice.
- Finished seventh at Chemung in 2008.

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James Civali (No. 79 Pontiac)

- Has four wins and 23 top 10s in 42 career starts ... Was the 2006 Sunoco Rookie of the Year.
- Made 2009 debut at Bristol Motor Speedway with a 40th-place finish after a crash on Lap 2.
- Is slated to fill this seat for the rest of the year after Ron Silk left the team ... Silk had made 24-straight starts in this car since the beginning of the 2008 season.

Ed Flemke Jr. (No. 10 Chevrolet)

- Has 17 wins and 15 poles in 378 career starts ... Has made a record 319 consecutive starts ... The last time he did not start a NWMT race was on July 22, 1992 at Riverside Park Speedway.
- Is ninth in the season standings with three top 10s.
- Finished 13th at Chemung in 2008 and 18th in 2001.

Donny Lia (No. 4 Dodge)

- The 2007 NWMT champion.
- Has 13 wins, 13 poles and 49 top 10s in 104 career starts.
- Is fourth in points with wins at New Hampshire Motor Speedway and last time out at BMS.

Rowan Pennink (No. 93 Chevrolet)

- Has 15 top 10s in 38 career starts.
- Is currently fifth in points with seven top 10s in eight starts.
- Finished ninth at Chemung in 2008.

Woody Pitkat (No. 28 Chevrolet)

- Has 12 top 10s in 25 career starts ... Finished 10th at Chemung in 2008.
- Is sixth in points with five top 10s in eight starts ... One of two drivers to run all 1136 laps in 2009.
- Is currently 15th in the NWAAS National Top 500 with 19 top 10s in 24 starts.

Ryan Preece (No. 3 Chevrolet)

- Has three poles, three wins and 17 top 10s in 38 career starts.
- Became the 20th driver in NWMT history to earn back-to-back victories with recent triumphs at Riverhead Raceway and Stafford Motor Speedway.
- Is third in the standings, 32 points back of leader Ted Christopher.

Mike Stefanik (No. 16 Pontiac)

- The 1989, 1991, 1997, 1998, 2001, 2002 and 2006 NWMT champion.
- Has 69 wins, 42 poles and 258 top 10s in 388 career starts ... Holds NWMT record for most championships, wins, poles, top fives and top 10s.
- Has slipped to 11th in points with three-straight DNFs ... Has four top 10s in eight starts.
- Finished third at Chemung in 2008 and sixth in 2001.

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Todd Szegedy (No. 2 Ford)

- The 2003 NWMT champion.
- Has 13 wins, five poles and 75 top 10s in 118 career starts.
- Is 29 points back of season leader Ted Christopher ... Is only driver to have a top-10 finish in each of the season's first eight races ... One of two drivers to run all 1136 laps in 2009.
- Finished second at Chemung in 2008.

Jamie Tomaino (No. 99 Chevrolet)

- The 1990 NWMT champion.
- Has three wins, six poles and 235 top 10s in 506 career starts.
- Become the first driver in series history to start 500 races at the Icebreaker ... Has missed only five of the 511 races in the history of the NWMT (1985-present) ... Is one of only two drivers, along with Carl Pasteryak, to make a start in each of the 25 years of the NWMT.
- Is 13th in points with one top 10 in seven starts.
- Finished 12th at Chemung in 2008 and 16th in 2001.

Jimmy Zacharias (No. 71 Chevrolet)

- Is set to make his NWMT debut in the Chemung 120.
- Has a top-10 finish in each of his three starts in 2009 in Chemung's NWAAS Modified division.
- Won a 100-lap SST Modified Tour race at Spencer on Aug. 21.

Upcoming Milestones/Benchmarks:

- **Ed Flemke Jr.** will attempt to extend his NWMT record consecutive starts streak to 320.
- **Jamie Tomaino** will attempt to extend his NWMT record for total starts to 507.
- **Ted Christopher** is two wins shy of tying **Tony Hirschman** for third on the NWMT all-time list at 35.
- The next win for either **Donny Lia** or **Todd Szegedy** would break a tie for 13th on the all-time wins list ... The pair currently has 13 wins apiece.
- **Mike Stefanik's** next NWMT victory would make him the eighth driver in NASCAR history to earn 70 wins in a series ... All others on the list accomplished the feat in the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series.

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