

Statistical Advance: Analyzing The Made In America Whelen 300

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (Sept. 23, 2009) – The second and final combination race for the NASCAR Whelen Modified and Whelen Southern Modified Tours in 2009 is set for this Sunday, Sept. 27 at Martinsville (Va.) Speedway.

At Martinsville Speedway:

History

- Martinsville Speedway opened in 1947.
- There have been 33 NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour races at Martinsville.
- Martinsville has welcomed the NWMT in all but six years (1993-96, 2003-04) of the Tour's 25-year history.
- The NASCAR Whelen Southern Modified Tour has raced with the NWMT at Martinsville each year since it was formed in 2005.

Notebook

- There have been 16 different NWMT winners in 33 races at Martinsville ... Mike Ewanitsko, Jeff Fuller, **Reggie Ruggiero** and **Mike Stefanik** lead with four apiece.
- There have been 20 different NWMT pole winners in those 33 previous events ... Fuller, Jan Leaty and Stefanik lead with four apiece.
- **Ted Christopher**, Jimmy Blewett, **Donny Lia** and **Ryan Preece** – all drivers from the northern series – have won each of the first four combination races at Martinsville.
- **Brian Loftin** (twice), Tim Brown, and **L.W. Miller** have been the highest-finishing NWSMT drivers in the first four combination races.
- The first two years of the Martinsville combo race featured a 50-lap qualifier and a 250-lap main ... The third and fourth editions were run in two segments with a 10 minute break at the conclusion of Lap 150 ... This year's event will be a 200-lap race with no break, and a NASCAR Whelen All-American Series Limited Sportsman 100-lap race has been added to the bill.

Martinsville Speedway Data

Race: NWMT #11/13, NWSMT #12/14

Track Layout: .525-mile oval

Banking: 12 degrees in the turns

Race Length: 200 laps/105.2 miles

Qualifying/Race Data

2008 pole winner: Ryan Preece (100.313 mph, 18.877 seconds)

2008 race winner: Ryan Preece (61.077 mph, 2:35.01)

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

Martinsville Combo Pole Winners

2005 Chuck Hossfeld
2006 Mike Stefanik
2007 Donny Lia
2008 Ryan Preece

Martinsville Combo Race Winners

2005 Ted Christopher
2006 Jimmy Blewett
2007 Donny Lia
2008 Ryan Preece

2-2-2-2

ANALYZING THE MADE IN AMERICA WHELEN 300

Up to Speed - NWMT:

- **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.
- **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 won the next time out 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.
- Lia made it two in a row with his win at TIS ... He also captured the pole prior to the race, his first of the season and the 14th of his career.
- **Ron Silk** earned his first win at NHMS last time out ... Preece was the pole winner.
- Christopher has a 48-point lead in the season standings on Lia ... Christopher has maintained the lead through 16 of the last 17 races dating back to 2008.

Up to Speed - NWSMT:

- **Ted Christopher** decided to make the trip South to compete in the season opening race at Concord (N.C.) Speedway. He led flag-to-flag to win. **George Brunnhoelzl III** suffered engine trouble in practice and was able to rent an engine and finish third.
- **Andy Seuss** came to South Boston (Va.) Speedway and collected his first win of the year as the NASCAR Whelen Southern Modified Tour made its first-ever visit to SBS.
- After rain postponed the first scheduled race of the year at Caraway Speedway, Christopher made it two-for-two in 2009 holding off a hard-charging Seuss for the win.
- Seuss joined Christopher as the only driver to win multiple races when he dominated the Lanier 150 at Lanier Speedway in the Tour's only visit to the Peach State of Georgia.
- Brunnhoelzl and **L.W. Miller** put on a great show at Caraway with Brunnhoelzl able to get past Miller and pick up his second career win and first of 2009.
- History was made at Bowman Gray Stadium when local competitor **Luke Fleming** borrowed his dad's modified car and won the Advance Auto Parts 199 in his first career start in the NWSMT.

3-3-3-3

ANALYZING THE MADE IN AMERICA WHELEN 300

- **Donny Lia** won the inaugural event at Bristol (Tenn.) Motor Speedway ... It was the first of two scheduled combination races with the NWMT in 2009 ... Qualifying for the event was rained out. Brunnhoelzl was the highest finishing NWSMT driver when he came home third.
- **Brian Loftin** finally returned to Victory Lane taking the Caraway 150 on August 29. The reigning NWSMT champion also claimed the record for most career wins on the Tour with 11.
- Seuss was able to make history once again like he did at South Boston earlier in the season when he won the first-ever NWSMT race at Myrtle Beach Speedway.
- Brunnhoelzl took a big steps towards winning his first-ever NWSMT championship winning the Caraway 150.
- Seuss became the first 4-time winner on the NWSMT this season.

Selected Driver Highlights:

Eric Beers (NWMT No. 46 Chevrolet)

- Has two wins and nine poles in 137 career starts.
- Is sixth in points with four top 10s.
- Finished 14th at Martinsville Speedway in 2008.

George Brunnhoelzl III (NWSMT No. 28 Ford)

- Has four wins and six poles in 35 career starts.
- Set a new track record in qualifying earlier this season at Caraway Speedway.
- Currently leads the 2009 NASCAR Whelen Southern Modified Tour point standings.

Ted Christopher (NWMT No. 36 Chevrolet)

- The 2008 NWMT champion ... Has 33 wins and 21 poles in 275 career starts ... Has at least one win in 11 consecutive seasons ... His 33 wins rank fourth all-time 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 48-point lead on Donny in the standings ... Has seven top fives in 10 starts, with six of those either wins (2) or runner-up finishes (4).
- Has led 38-percent (529 of 1,386) of all laps run this year, more than double any other driver.
- Won at Martinsville in 2005 ... Finished fourth in 2008.
- Also has two NWSMT wins this year ... Concord Speedway and Caraway Speedway (April 11).

James Civali (NWMT No. 79 Pontiac)

- Has four wins and 23 top 10s in 44 career starts ... Was the 2006 Sunoco Rookie of the Year.
- Has an average finish of 26th in three starts in 2009.
- Has two third-place finishes at Martinsville.

4-4-4-4

ANALYZING THE MADE IN AMERICA WHELEN 300

Bryan Dauzat (NWSMT No. 97 Chevrolet)

- Veteran race has competed in eight events in 2009.
- Collected his first career top-five finish at Bowman Gray Stadium in August, finishing fifth in the Advance Auto Parts 199.

Buddy Emory (NWSMT No. 02 Chevrolet)

- Is the defending Sunoco Rookie of the Year in the NWSMT.
- Picked up his first career top-five finish earlier this month at Myrtle Beach Speedway when he finished third.
- Has 25 career starts on the NWSMT.

Ed Flemke Jr. (NWMT No. 10 Chevrolet)

- Has 17 wins and 15 poles in 380 career starts ... Has made a record 321 consecutive starts ... The last time he did not start a NWMT race was on July 22, 1992 at Riverside Park Speedway.
- Is 10th in the season standings with three top 10s.
- Finished seventh at Martinsville in 2008.

Frank Fleming (NWSMT No. 40 Pontiac)

- Recorded career-best second-place finish at Caraway at Firecracker 150 in July.
- Has started all but one race in the history of the NWSMT (58 of 59).
- Owns a body shop business and small cattle farm.

Donny Lia (NWMT No. 4 Dodge)

- The 2007 NWMT champion.
- Has 14 wins, 14 poles and 52 top 10s in 107 career starts.
- Is up to second in points ... Has wins this year at New Hampshire Motor Speedway (June) Bristol Motor Speedway and Thompson International Speedway (September).
- Won at Martinsville in 2007 en route to the NWMT title.

Brian Loftin (NWSMT No. 23 Chevrolet)

- Has 11 wins and 35 top-10's in 52 career starts.
- Was the 2008 NWSMT champion.
- Has won at least one race in four of five seasons competing in the NWSMT.

Burt Myers (NWSMT No. 1 Ford)

- Holds the NWSMT record for the most Coors Light Pole Awards with 20.
- Has 5 wins and 46 top 10's in 57 career starts.
- Is fifth in points with a season-high second-place finish at BMS and Caraway.
- Has nine career poles at Caraway and one win at the track located in Asheboro, N.C.

5-5-5-5

ANALYZING THE MADE IN AMERICA WHELEN 300

Jason Myers (NWSMT No. 6 Ford)

- Has one career win in the NWSMT at Bowman Gray Stadium in 2006.
- Has started 53 consecutive races in the NWSMT dating back to the middle of the 2005 season.
- Second-generation driver from well-known Myers family in the Carolinas.
- Father Gary, is team owner and crew chief.

Gene Pack (NWSMT No. 31 Chevrolet)

- One of nine drivers to start every NWSMT race on the 2009 schedule.
- Has a career-best second-place finish at Martinsville in 2006.
- Entered 2009 with just one career top-five finish and has two this season (Bowman Gray Stadium and Myrtle Beach Speedway)

Chris Pasteryak (NWMT No. 52 Chevrolet)

- Has nine top 10s in 24 career NWMT starts.
- Is up to seventh in points with four top 10s.

Rowan Pennink (NWMT No. 93 Chevrolet)

- Has 17 top 10s in 40 career starts.
- Is currently fifth in points with eight top 10s in 10 starts, including eight in a row entering Martinsville.
- Finished eighth at Martinsville in 2008.

Woody Pitkat (NWMT No. 88 Chevrolet)

- Has 12 top 10s in 27 career starts.
- Is eighth in points with five top 10s in 10 starts.
- Finished sixth at Martinsville in 2008.

Ryan Preece (NWMT No. 3 Chevrolet)

- Has four poles, three wins and 18 top 10s in 40 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 up to third in points with eight top 10s in 10 starts with two wins and two poles.
- Won the pole and the race last year at Martinsville.

Andy Seuss (NWSMT No. 47 Dodge)

- Leads the NWSMT with four wins (South Boston, Lanier, Myrtle Beach, Caraway).
- Has six wins in 28 career starts.
- Also competes in the NWMT on off weekends.

6-6-6-6

ANALYZING THE MADE IN AMERICA WHELEN 300

Ron Silk (NWMT No. 12 Chevrolet)

- Has four wins and 28 top 10s in 65 career NWMT starts.
- Has five top 10s in nine 2009 starts ... Won last time out at NHMS.
- Finished 24th at Martinsville in 2008.

John Smith (NWSMT No. 25 Chevrolet)

- Has competed in the NWSMT every season since it became NASCAR sanctioned in 2005.
- Has a career-best second-place finish at Bowman Gray Stadium in 2007.
- Has won multiple modified races at Bowman Gray in the Whelen All-American Series.

Mike Stefanik (NWMT No. 16 Pontiac)

- The 1989, 1991, 1997, 1998, 2001, 2002 and 2006 NWMT champion.
- Has 69 wins, 42 poles and 259 top 10s in 391 career starts ... Holds NWMT record for most championships, wins, poles, top fives and top 10s.
- Is ninth in points but suffered four-straight DNFs from Riverhead Raceway through TIS.
- Has four career poles and wins at Martinsville ... Last win was in 1992.

Todd Szegedy (NWMT No. 2 Ford)

- The 2003 NWMT champion.
- Has 13 wins, five poles and 76 top 10s in 120 career starts.
- Was the only driver to have recorded a top 10 and complete all laps in the first nine races of the year prior to a DNF at NHMS last time out ... Slipped from second to fourth in points at NHMS.
- Finished fifth at Martinsville in 2008 ... Best finish there was fourth in 2006.

Jamie Tomaino (NWMT No. 99 Chevrolet)

- The 1990 NWMT champion.
- Has three wins, six poles and 235 top 10s in 508 career starts.
- Become the first driver in series history to start 500 races at the Icebreaker ... Has missed only five of the 512 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.
- Finished 10th at Martinsville in 2008 ... Best finish there was second in 1986 and 1987.

For more information, contact:

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

Tim Southers, NASCAR Public Relations - NWSMT, (386) 235-3634 or tsouthers@nascar.com.