



NASCAR WHELEN MODIFIED TOUR

News & Notes

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RACE 3 @ STAFFORD MOTOR SPEEDWAY

FAST FACTS

The Race: TSI Harley-Davidson 125

The Place: Stafford (Conn.) Motor Speedway

The Date: Friday, May 28

The Time: 9 p.m. ET

The Distance: 125 laps / 62.5 miles

Race Purse: \$76,476

2009 Winner: Jimmy Blewett

2009 Polesitter: Ted Christopher

Event Schedule:

Practice 2-3:30 a.m., Qualifying 6 p.m.

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- Solid Start to 2010 for Stefanik
- Tour Tidbits: Spring Sizzler Recap



The TSI Harley-Davidson 125 will be the first of two night races for the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour at Stafford (Conn.) Motor Speedway in 2010, and the second of four overall at the half mile.

2010 STANDINGS

Rk	Driver	Points
1	Bobby Santos	365
2	Ted Christopher	350
3	Mike Stefanik	340
4	Rowan Pennink	310
	Todd Szegedy	310
6	Eric Berndt	276
7	Ryan Preece	269
8	Chris Pasteryak	261
9	Eric Goodale	250
10	Erick Rudolph	249

NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour Returns To Stafford

The third race date on the 2010 NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour schedule will see a return to Stafford (Conn.) Motor Speedway on Friday, May 28 for the TSI Harley-Davidson 125.

The return to Stafford comes four weeks after **Ted Christopher** took the checkered flag in the Tech-Net Spring Sizzler presented by CARQUEST on May 1 at the historic half-mile in the second race of the season.

Stafford, a slightly-banked asphalt facility, has played host to the Whelen Modified Tour in all but one season since its inception in 1985. This week's contest will be the 96th all-time race for the Whelen Modified Tour at Stafford.

The TSI Harley-Davidson 125 will be the second of four races for the Whelen Modified Tour this year at Stafford. At 125 laps, it will also be the shortest. The Spring Sizzler was the longest at 200 laps and

the August and October dates will each be 150.

Stafford races have had various lap lengths through the years. Last year's edition of this race, won by **Jimmy Blewett**, was 100 laps. There was a 125-lap race at Stafford in 1989 and two in 1990.

The TSI Harley-Davidson 125 will also be the first of two Whelen Modified Tour races during Stafford's regular Friday night program as the Tour will be joined by five divisions of the NASCAR Whelen All-American Series.

In addition to Christopher and Blewett, other drivers expected to enter that have career wins at Stafford include: **James Civali**, **Ed Flemke Jr.**, **Chuck Hossfeld**, **Ryan Preece**, **Mike Stefanik**, **Todd Szegedy** and **Jamie Tomaino**.

On-track activities will begin with practice at 2 p.m., and qualifying is at 6 p.m. The race is scheduled to go green at approximately 9 p.m.



News & Notes

The Race ... The TSI Harley-Davidson 125 on May 28 will be the third of 14 races on the 2010 NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour schedule, and the second of four stops for the Tour at Stafford (Conn.) Motor Speedway. May 28 will mark the 20th running of this race.

The Procedure ... Starting positions 1-26 will be set from time trials. The remaining five will be filled through the provisional process. The race is 125 laps (62.5 miles).

The Track ... A half-mile, slightly-banked oval, Stafford Motor Speedway originated as a horse-racing track in the 1870s. After seven decades as a horse track, the dirt oval started holding auto races following WW II. Stafford became a NASCAR track in 1959 and was paved for the first time in 1967.

Race Winners ... There have been 29 different race winners at Stafford, led by **Mike Stefanik's** 20 victories. **Ted Christopher** had the longest win streak in the history of the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour at Stafford with four-straight victories from Sept. 30, 2001 to Aug. 23, 2002. Christopher won last time out in the Tech-Net Spring Sizzler presented by CARQUEST, also at Stafford, and now has 10 career Tour wins at the track.

Pole Winners ... There have been 36 different pole winners at Stafford, led by Stefanik's 15. Christopher earned the pole for this race a year ago and has four total at the track. **Bobby Santos** was the pole winner for this year's Spring Sizzler.

Solid Start To 2010 Campaign For Stefanik

The record-holder of nearly every statistical category in the history of the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour, **Mike Stefanik** has accomplished it all. If the first two races of the 2010 season are any indication, however, he's not yet ready to rest on his laurels.

The most recent of Stefanik's seven Whelen Modified Tour championships came in 2006, but the winningest driver in NASCAR touring series history has not contended for a title since.

While he recorded a win in each of the last three seasons prior to 2010, Stefanik finished seventh each time in the final standings. His top-finishing consistency also dropped off as he recorded top 10 in 56-percent of starts during that three-year stretch compared to his career average of 67-percent.

Though an early sample size, it seems after two races in 2010 that Stefanik and the **No. 16 Diversified Metals Pontiac** team might have turned a corner. Stefanik, who turned 52 on May 20, finished third in the season opener at Thompson (Conn.) International Speedway and was again third across the line in his second outing at Stafford (Conn.) Motor Speedway. He enters this week's return to Stafford third in points, 25 behind leader **Bobby Santos**.

"Our car owner has spent an awful lot of money on new equipment and a new look, and we hope it brings us a new year," Stefanik said. "We've been struggling on this Tour the last few years - as people know - and to come out and run like we have, it's a feel-good feeling."

As satisfied as he is to be back toward the front, Stefanik possesses 70 career victories in his Whelen Modified Tour career, and he wants more.



Stefanik has 20 career Whelen Modified Tour wins at Stafford, site of this week's race.

"There's a couple cars out here that are a little faster than we are," Stefanik said after the Stafford race. "These guys aren't afraid of work. We've got a little more work to do. I think we'll be ok."

The Whelen Modified Tour will return to Stafford for the third race of the season, but not much can be taken from the last time out as the TSI Harley-Davidson is 75 laps shorter, and will be run at night as opposed to the sunny daytime conditions of the 200-lap Tech-Net Spring Sizzler presented by CARQUEST on May 1.

"We're going to come back with a different package," Stefanik said. "This package just isn't fast enough. It was a top-five package, but you know what, top fives don't cut it. Not with our team, we want to win."

Stefanik certainly has a pedigree of winning at Stafford. His 20 career Whelen Modified Tour wins at the half-mile are double **Ted Christopher's** total, now second on the list with his win in the Spring Sizzler. Stefanik last won at Stafford in the 2008 Fall Final

Tour Teams Test At Lime Rock Park

Selected drivers from the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour participated in a test held by Hoosier Tire on May 11 at Lime Rock Park.

In preparation for the Whelen Modified Tour's inaugural visit to Lime Rock Park on July 3, drivers **Ted Christopher**, **Rowan Pennink**, **Bobby Santos** and **Todd Szegedy** took part in four 20-minute sessions throughout the afternoon at the Connecticut road course.

"I think it went really well," said Chad Little, Whelen Modified Tour series director. "Hoosier seemed to know what they needed and did their homework. They were pretty much spot-on."

The test also allowed for NASCAR to gather

other technical information in advance of the July race.

"I think we're going to end up with a good package, gear-wise," Little said. "I'm real pleased with it [the test]. Nothing jumped out at us as being a major issue."

Szegedy, who has a background in road racing and has tested a Whelen Modified at Lime Rock previously, was also pleased with the results of the test.

"I think it was a success," Szegedy said. "We got a little understanding of the type of transmission we need to run, and gearing. All in all, I think it was a great day."



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Tour Tidbits: Spring Sizzler Recap

Christopher Continues to Make History ...

When it comes to milestones at Stafford Motor Speedway, **Ted Christopher** pretty much has it all covered, but he was able to add another one in the Tech-Net Spring Sizzler presented by CARQUEST on May 1. Christopher's win was his fifth NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour Spring Sizzler triumph, which moved him ahead of **Mike Stefanik** for the most wins in the track's traditional season-opening event. It was also Christopher's 35th career Whelen Modified Tour victory, which moved him into a tie for third with **Tony Hirschman** on the all-time wins list.

Santos Sets Another Qualifying Record, Retains Points Lead ...

So far, so good for **Bobby Santos** in his first shot at a points championship in the Whelen Modified Tour. In the season opener at Thompson (Conn.) International Speedway, Santos won the Coors Light Pole Award in track-record time and went on to win the race. At the Spring Sizzler, he once again set the Whelen Modified Tour qualifying record for his second pole of the year. Santos redrew the pole and led from the start in the race, but was taken out by a lapped car on Lap 55. He was able to rally back for a runner-up finish and retains a 15-point lead on Christopher in the season standings.

Comeback for Hossfeld ... After a disappointing 33rd-place finish in the season opener in which he was involved in an accident, **Chuck Hossfeld** bounced back in the Spring Sizzler to finish sixth and earn the Featherlite Most Improved Driver Award.

Bonsignore Finishes Up Front ...



Santos has piloted the No. 4 to track records in each of the first two races this year.

First-year **Justin Bonsignore** finished 10th at Stafford to earn the Sunoco Rookie of the Race Award. It marked the third time in four career starts the Long Islander had finished in the top 10. The previous two were fourth-place finishes at his home track, Riverhead.

Berndt Ties Personal Best ... One of the more improved drivers in the last two seasons, part-time driver **Eric Berndt** is currently sixth in points after two races. At the Spring Sizzler he tied his previous career-best finish of seventh, which he had established just three starts earlier at Thompson in 2009. Also in 2009, he led the first laps and earned the first pole of his career.

Round Numbers ... The top finishes of Christopher and **Todd Szegedy** rounded off some of their career stats. The checkered flag for Christopher marked his 35th career win, his 100th top five and his 150th top 10. Szegedy's fifth-place finish marked his 50th career top five and the 80th top 10 in his 125th career start.



Up Next: Made In America Whelen 200

Following this week's race at Stafford (Conn.) Motor Speedway, the next race on the 2010 NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour schedule will take place at historic Martinsville (Va.) Speedway.

A Modified racing venue long before the Whelen Modified Tour was formed, Martinsville will play host to the Tour on Sunday, June 6. The 2010 Made In America Whelen 200 will mark the 35th time the Tour has raced Martinsville's .526-mile paperclip, the most at any facility outside of the northeast.

After five years of this being a combination race with the NASCAR Whelen Southern Modified Tour, the Martinsville date has gone back to just a Whelen Modified Tour event, although a number of Whelen Southern Modified Tour teams are expected to enter.

Of the active drivers, only **Jimmy Blewett**, **Ted Christopher**, **Ryan Preece** and **Mike Stefanik** have career wins at Martinsville. Stefanik is the only one of that group to have more than one. His fifth career triumph came in 2009.

The Whelen Modified Tour will share the bill on race weekend with the NASCAR K&N Pro Series East. Practice and qualifying for both is scheduled for Saturday, June 5. The Tour will take the green flag on Sunday at 1 p.m. with the East to follow.

Stafford Success Fueling Rocco's Campaign

Reigning NASCAR Whelen All-American Series Connecticut State Champion - and national runner-up - **Keith Rocco** is fueling his 2010 title hopes once again with a high level of success at Stafford (Conn.) Motor Speedway.

Rocco, from Wallingford, Conn., already has a 32-point lead in the season standings after four races in Stafford's SK Modified division. His second win of the year at the historic half mile came last time out on May 21.

As of the last Whelen All-American Series standings release on May 18, Rocco topped all national competitors with 417 points and had a 35-point lead on **Justin Johnson**. This past week Rocco added a runner-up effort at Thompson (Conn.) International Speedway and finished seventh at Waterford (Conn.) Speedbowl to his

Stafford win.

NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour drivers **Woody Pitkat** and **Ted Christopher** are



second and seventh, respectively, in SK Modified points at Stafford. They have won the season's other two races, and Christopher is the defending track champion.

In Stafford's other Whelen All-American Series divisions **Dillon Moltz** tops the Late Model standings, **Jay Goff** leads the SK Light Modifieds, **Kevin Gambacorta** has a slim advantage in the Limited Late Models as does **Tony Membrino Jr.** in the DARE Stocks.

All five divisions will share the race card with the Whelen Modified Tour on May 28.



Upcoming Broadcast Schedule

Race	Channel	Air Date, Time
Martinsville	SPEED	TBA
New Hampshire	SPEED	TBA
Riverhead	VERSUS	8/4, 7 p.m.
Riverhead *	VERSUS	8/8, 11 p.m.
Stafford (Aug.)	VERSUS	8/11, 7 p.m.
Stafford (Aug.) *	VERSUS	8/15, 11 p.m.

All times ET

* Replay



Contingency Awards

COORS LIGHT POLE AWARD

Bobby Santos 2



COCA-COLA MOVE OF THE RACE AWARD

James Civali 1
Woody Pitkat 1



FEATHERLITE MOST IMPROVED DRIVER AWARD

Chuck Hossfeld 1
Bobby Santos 1



WHELEN WINNER OF THE RACE

Ted Christopher 1
Bobby Santos 1



SUNOCO ROOKIE OF THE RACE AWARD

Justin Bonsignore 1
Richie Pallai Jr. 1



SUNOCO ROOKIE OF THE YEAR STANDINGS

Justin Bonsignore 19
Richie Pallai Jr. 19



Jimmy Blewett (14), Bobby Santos (4) and Ted Christopher (36) waged a three-way battle for the Spring Sizzler victory at Stafford on May 1, but Christopher came out on top for his record fifth win in the track's season-opening event.



2010 NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour Schedule

DATE	RACE	FACILITY	2010 POLESITTER	2010 RACE WINNER
April 11	Icebreaker	Thompson (Conn.) International Speedway	Bobby Santos	Bobby Santos
April 25	Tech-Net Spring Sizzler pres. by CARQUEST	Stafford (Conn.) Motor Speedway	Bobby Santos	Ted Christopher
DATE	RACE	FACILITY	2009 POLESITTER	2009 RACE WINNER
May 28	TSI Harley-Davidson 125	Stafford (Conn.) Motor Speedway	Ted Christopher	Jimmy Blewett
June 6	Made In America Whelen 200	Martinsville (Va.) Speedway	Ron Silk	Mike Stefanik
June 26	New England 100	New Hampshire Motor Speedway, Loudon, N.H.	Doug Coby	Donny Lia
July 3	NWMT at Lime Rock	Lime Rock Park, Lakeville, Conn.	—	—
July 17	NWMT at Monadnock *	Monadnock Speedway, Winchester, N.H.	—	—
July 31	NWMT at Riverhead *	Riverhead (N.Y.) Raceway	Ryan Preece	Ryan Preece
Aug. 6	Town Fair Tire 150	Stafford (Conn.) Motor Speedway	Eric Berndt	Ryan Preece
Aug. 12	Budweiser 150	Thompson (Conn.) International Speedway	Donny Lia	Donny Lia
Aug. 18	UNOH Perfect Storm 150 +	Bristol (Tenn.) Motor Speedway	None (rain)	Donny Lia
Sept. 18	New Hampshire 100	New Hampshire Motor Speedway, Loudon, N.H.	Ryan Preece	Ron Silk
Oct. 3	CARQUEST Fall Final	Stafford (Conn.) Motor Speedway	Donny Lia	Donny Lia
Oct. 17	World Series of Speedway Racing	Thompson (Conn.) International Speedway	None (rain)	Ted Christopher

* Qualifying Format Race

+ Combined Race With Whelen Southern Modified Tour