



NASCAR WHELEN MODIFIED TOUR

# News & Notes

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RACE 6 @ LIME ROCK PARK

The Race: Lime Rock 100

The Place: New Hampshire Motor Speedway

The Date: Saturday, July 3

The Time: 12:15 p.m. ET

TV Schedule: SPEED, July 22, 6 p.m. ET

Track Layout: 1.058-mile oval

Race Purse: \$85,810

2009 Winner: N/A

2009 Polesitter: N/A

Event Schedule:

Friday: Practice 11:35 a.m.-12:20 p.m., Final Practice 1:15-2 p.m., Qualifying 3:45 p.m.

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- First Road Course Race Since 2000 For Modifieds
- Newman Gets First NASCAR Modified Victory
- Santos' Lead Continues To Grow



The NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour is set for its inaugural race at Lime Rock Park.

## Whelen Modified Tour Returns To The Road

The sixth race of the 2010 NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour season on July 3 will be a historic date on the storied division's timeline.

For the first time in the now 26-year history of the Whelen Modified Tour, Lime Rock Park will serve as host to a race. The 1.53-mile circuit in Lakeville, Conn., will become just the second road course to play host to a Whelen Modified Tour race.

Unlike all of NASCAR's other national and touring series, the Modifieds have little history of competition at anything other than oval tracks. In the first 25 years of the Whelen Modified Tour, only Watkins Glen (N.Y.) International has appeared on the schedule, and that was just for a span from 1996-2000.

After a decade's absence, that is all about to change as Lime Rock is set to play host to the inaugural Whelen Modified Tour Lime Rock 100 this weekend.

With deep roots throughout New England, the Whelen Modified Tour has visited many race facilities in its 25-plus years. A number of times the Tour has even gone back to a track after some years away, like in mid-July when Monadnock Speedway returns to the schedule after 20 years. But recent history has also shown that NASCAR has looked to grow the Tour to different areas. The Lime Rock 100 will mark the third time in the last four seasons that the Whelen Modified Tour has visited a facility that it has never gone to before, following inaugural events at Mansfield (Ohio) Motorsports Park in 2007 and Bristol (Tenn.) Motor Speedway in 2009.

While some technical and mechanical aspects of an asphalt Modified lend it more toward an oval-specific race car, there has been significant investments of time, effort, research and funding to

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### 2010 STANDINGS

Rk	Driver	Points
1	Bobby Santos	900
2	Ted Christopher	771
3	Todd Szegedy	758
4	Mike Stefanik	728
5	Ryan Preece	719
6	Justin Bonsignore	643
7	Ron Silk	627
8	Richie Pallai Jr.	601
9	Woody Pitkat	597
10	James Civali	596



## Raceday Notes

**The Race** ... The Lime Rock 100 at Lime Rock Park will be the inaugural event for the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour at the Lakeville, Conn., road course.

**The Procedure** ... The starting field is 30 cars, including provisionals. The first 25 cars will have secured starting positions based on road-race style (group) qualifying. The remaining five spots will be awarded through the provisional process. The race will be 66 laps (101 miles).

**The Track** ... Lime Rock is a 12-turn, 1.53-mile road course. The track opened April 20, 1957 and has held sports car events throughout its history. The Whelen Modified Tour will run the "Optional Uphill."

## Road Course History

There have been six road course races in NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour history, all at Watkins Glen (N.Y.) International. Here is a brief look at those races.

Date	Pole Winner	Race Winner
8/25/96	Steve Park	Mike Stefanik
6/28/97	Tim Connolly	Tim Connolly
8/24/97	Mike Stefanik	Mike Stefanik
5/30/98	Mike Stefanik	Tim Connolly
8/14/99	None-rain	Ted Christopher
8/11/00	Ted Christopher	Ted Christopher

## Ten Year Absence From Road Course Racing

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set up the Lime Rock 100 for success.

The cars are only half of the equation of inexperience and unknowns as the Whelen Modified Tour goes to Lime Rock. Among the 2010 driver roster, just Ted Christopher, Wade Cole, Ed Flemke Jr., Jake Marosz, Mike Stefanik, Rob Summers, Todd Szegedy and Jamie Tomaino competed in some or all of the six races at Watkins Glen.

That leaves a host of 2010 championship contenders with little-to-no road racing experience, including current points leader Bobby Santos. Drivers 5-10 in points after the first five races will all be road course rookies.

Christopher, Rowan Pennink, Santos and Szegedy tested their cars at Lime Rock on May 11 for Hoosier Tires, and an open test date this Tuesday will allow all teams to get a feel for the track, but the fact remains that for many of the Whelen Modified Tour's drivers, the Lime Rock 100 will be their first road course racing venture.

Christopher, Stefanik and Szegedy figure to have a leg up on the competition as they have experience at Lime Rock in other divisions. Stefanik has a win (1998) and seven top 10s in nine NASCAR K&N Pro Series East starts and Christopher has a win (1997) and four top 10s in five East starts at Lime Rock. Szegedy had success in SCCA events at the track.

While road racing experience projects to be an advantage, it's not entirely unprecedented for a first-timer to have success. Tim Connolly had no previous NASCAR road racing starts prior to his win at Watkins Glen in 1997, and just last year true rookies won both K&N Pro Series poles and races at Lime Rock and The Glen.

The only road course "ringer" expected to



*Szegedy was one of four drivers that tested Lime Rock for Hoosier Tire in May.*

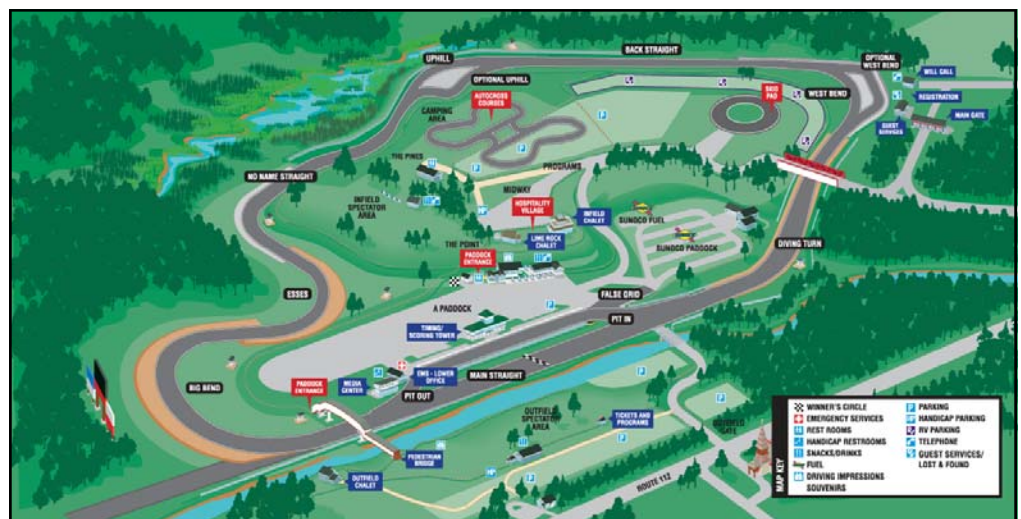
participate is Dale Quarterley, who has just two career Whelen Modified Tour starts. The first came in the 1996 race at The Glen, and the last was at New Hampshire in 2008. Quarterley is the owner of K&N Pro Series East wins at Lime Rock in 2001 and 2003.

The Whelen Modified Tour will share the racing card at Lime Rock with the K&N Pro Series East, which has raced there since 1993. Both the Whelen Modified Tour and K&N Pro Series East will utilize the new "Optional Uphill" coming out of "No Name Straight" and entering the "Back Straight."

Both races are 66 laps. The Whelen Modified Tour green flag is at 12:15 p.m., followed by the K&N Pro Series East at 2:15 p.m.



*Pennink is one of the many drivers who will make their road course debut at Lime Rock.*



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*Christopher (36), Newman (7) and Santos (4) were the class of the field Saturday at NHMS.*

## Tour Tidbits: Newman Breaks Through

The fifth race of the 2010 NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour season was the New England 100 at New Hampshire Motor Speedway on June 26.

**Newman Captures Checkers** ... In his fifth attempt, NASCAR Sprint Cup Series driver **Ryan Newman** was able to break through for a win in the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour. Newman teamed with **Jamie McMurray's** Sprint Cup Series crew chief, Kevin Manion, for the first time to field a Whelen Modified Tour entry in the fall of 2008. Newman earned the Coors Light Pole Award in his first Modified foray at New Hampshire that September, but in four starts prior to last Saturday, his best finish was eighth. With the victory, Newman became the first NASCAR national series driver to win a Whelen Modified Tour race. In fact, **Todd Bodine**, **Carl Edwards**, **Kasey Kahne** and **Tony Stewart** have all failed to register a top five. Newman also earned the pole for the New England 100 in Thursday qualifying.

**Christopher's Bid Comes Up Just Short** ... The winningest driver in New Hampshire Motor Speedway history, **Ted Christopher**, came up a quarter of a lap shy of adding to his legend. A 10-time Loudon winner, Christopher led six different times for a race-high 40 laps, but was passed by Newman in Turn 3 on the last lap. The runner-up effort did move Christopher from fourth to second in the season standings.

**Streak Ends for Mystic Missile Racing** ... The No. 4 "Mystic Missile" Dodge had won the three previous New England 100s with **Donny Lia** and **Chuck Hossfeld** behind the wheel. **Bobby Santos** could not keep the streak alive in the 2010 edition, but it wasn't for a lack of trying.

Santos led three times for 16 laps, but in the end he finished a distant fourth.

**Costly Incident for Stefanik** ... Through four races, **Mike Stefanik** and the No. 16 Flamingo Racing team was on point. They had registered top 10s in each outing, and Stefanik was 89 points behind Santos in the standings. Unfortunate circumstances struck early for Stefanik in Loudon on Saturday as he was involved in an accident with **Rob Fuller** on Lap 3. Stefanik was able to return to the track and turn laps, but he finished 27th and dropped from second to fourth in points, now 172 behind Santos.

**Pitkat on the Move, Again** ... He may not be an elite qualifier, but **Woody Pitkat** has become adept at moving up through the field. In five races so far in 2009, Pitkat has earned the Coca-Cola Move of the Race Award three times. The award goes to the driver who improves the most positions at the end of the race from where they started. In those five starts, Pitkat has an average in-race improvement of 14 positions.

**Tyler Bounces Back** ... At New Hampshire, **Glenn Tyler** finished 16th, but that was a marked improvement from his 36th at Martinsville Speedway in the previous race after an accident. As a result, he was the New England 100 Featherlite Most Improved Driver Award winner.

**Rookie Pair in Top Half** ... In their first starts at the "Magic Mile," rookies **Justin Bonsignore** and **Richie Pallai Jr.** both registered top-15 finishes. Bonsignore crossed the line 12th to earn the Sunoco Rookie of the Race Award for the fourth time this year. Pallai finished 14th.



## Up Next: Monadnock

The next stop for the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour will take place at an old familiar facility.

Monadnock Speedway in Winchester, N.H., has returned to the schedule for the first time since the 1990 season for the Monadnock 200 on Saturday, July 17.

The .25-mile high-banked oval played host to the Whelen Modified Tour five times from 1986-90.

Each of the previous five races produced different winners, including current drivers **Mike Stefanik (1988)** and **Jamie Tomaino (1990)**.

The 2010 edition of the Whelen Modified Tour at Monadnock will be a qualifying format race. The first 16 starting positions will be determined from two-lap time trials and positions 17-23 will be determined from the top seven finishers in the 25-lap qualifying race.

The feature race will be 175 laps.

## Santos Extends Lead

While many drivers would be ecstatic to record a top five at New Hampshire Motor Speedway, the fourth-place finish for **Bobby Santos** on June 26 was actually his worst in five 2010 outings.

All was certainly not lost for the No. 4 "Mystic Missile" Dodge, however. Not only did Santos stay consistent with his fifth top-five in as many races this year, but he was also able to extend the championship points lead to a whopping 129 tallies, the largest margin between first and second since the end of the 2007 season.



**Bobby Santos**

For more information, contact:  
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## Contingency Awards

### COORS LIGHT POLE AWARD

Bobby Santos	3
Ryan Newman	1
Mike Stefanik	1



### COCA-COLA MOVE OF THE RACE AWARD

Woody Pitkat	3
Erick Rudolph	1
Mike Stefanik	1



### FEATHERLITE MOST IMPROVED DRIVER AWARD

James Civali	1
Chuck Hossfeld	1
Bobby Santos	1
Rob Summers	1
Glenn Tyler	1



### WHELEN WINNER OF THE RACE

Bobby Santos	3
Ted Christopher	1
Ryan Newman	1



### SUNOCO ROOKIE OF THE RACE AWARD

Justin Bonsignore	4
Richie Pallai Jr.	1



### SUNOCO ROOKIE OF THE YEAR STANDINGS

Justin Bonsignore	49
Richie Pallai Jr.	46



*Pitkat has earned the Coca-Cola Move of the Race Award three times so far in 2010.*

## 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
May 28	TSI Harley-Davidson 125	Stafford (Conn.) Motor Speedway	Bobby Santos	Bobby Santos
June 6	Made In America Whelen 200	Martinsville (Va.) Speedway	Mike Stefanik	Bobby Santos
June 26	New England 100	New Hampshire Motor Speedway, Loudon, N.H.	Ryan Newman	Ryan Newman
DATE	RACE	FACILITY	2009 POLESITTER	2009 RACE WINNER
July 3	Lime Rock 100	Lime Rock Park, Lakeville, Conn.	—	—
July 17	Monadnock 200 *	Monadnock Speedway, Winchester, N.H.	—	—
July 31	Riverhead 200 *	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