



WHELEN SOUTHERN MODIFIED TOUR

# News & Notes



Fans packed Caraway Speedway last weekend to watch George Brunnhoelzl open the 2011 season with a win. Sara D. Davis/Getty Images for NASCAR

## Déjà Vu For Brunnhoelzl

### Former Champion Kicks Season Off With Win



George Brunnhoelzl has four career wins at Caraway.

Just like he did during his championship-winning season in 2009, George Brunnhoelzl III, picked up his first win of the season at Caraway Speedway. Although Brunnhoelzl felt his No. 09 Phoenix Pre-owned/Triad Auto Sales Chevrolet wasn't the best car on the track, the West Babylon, N.Y., native took advantage of the situation and made the best of it at Caraway.

Brunnhoelzl won three times at Caraway in 2009 and now has four career wins at the track. He will return this weekend for the Caraway 150 and try and make it two in a row at Caraway. Brunnhoelzl will be one of eight previous race winners expected to race this weekend. The other drivers are Brian Loftin (7), L.W. Miller (6), Andy Seuss (4), Ted Christopher (3), Tim Brown (2), Burt Myers (1) and John Smith (1).

Here is a quick 'By The Numbers' look at Caraway since Christopher won the first race held at the track on March 26, 2005.

- .160 - In seconds, the closest margin of victory at Caraway since the first tour race held at the track. On Oct. 24, 2009, in a race Brunnhoelzl only had to start to clinch the championship, he held off John Smith in an exciting final lap dash to the finish line.
- 12 - The number of poles won by Myers at Caraway in the 33 tour races held at the track. Myers averages a Coors Light Pole Award in nearly every three races at the track.
- 6 - The number of drivers who have collected their first career win on the tour at Caraway. The most recent driver is John Smith, who picked up his win on July 2, 2010.
- 5 - The number of most consecutive wins at Caraway. L.W. Miller accomplished this from Sept. 23, 2006, to Sept. 8, 2007.
- 3 - The number of wire-to-wire wins at Caraway. Andy Seuss led every lap twice in 2010 (Mar. 14, Aug. 28) and Junior Miller dominated on June 30, 2006.

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## Notes: Caraway 150

**Career day:** Austin Pack, grandson of Gene Pack and son of the late Brian Pack, picked up his first top-10 finish on the tour when he finished 10th in the Spring Classic 150.

**Northern visitor:** Ted Christopher, a full-time competitor in the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour, is expected to make another start at Caraway this weekend. Christopher has four wins in 10 career starts on the southern tour.

**Welcome aboard:** Patrick Emerling and Michael Speeney made their debuts on the tour in the Spring Classic 150 and finished 13th and 16th, respectively.

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### Caraway 150

**Place:** Caraway Speedway, Asheboro, N.C.

**Date:** Saturday, March 19

**Time:** 8 p.m. ET

**Track Layout:** .455-mile banked paved oval

**2010 Winner:** New Event

**2010 Polesitter:** New Event

**Track Schedule:**

Saturday: Practice

3:30-4:15 p.m.,

Qualifying 5:45 p.m.

**Track PR**

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### Fast Facts

**Race:** This event marks the second of 12 races in the 2011 season for the NASCAR Whelen Southern Modified Tour. It is the second of six visits to Caraway Speedway this season.

**Procedure:** The starting field is 26 cars, including provisionals. The first 23 cars will qualify through two-lap time trials. The remaining three spots will be awarded through the provisional process. The race will be 150 laps.

**Track:** Caraway Speedway is a .455-mile banked oval that many consider the "home track" for the southern tour. This will be the 33rd race held at the track, by far the most of any track on the 2011 schedule.

**Records:** Qualifying: George Brunnhoelzl III, April 11, 2009, 103.987 mph, 15.752 sec.;

**Busy stretch:** This weekend's Caraway 150 begins a period of four races in five weeks with upcoming events at Hickory Motor Speedway (April 2), South Boston Speedway (April 16) and Caraway (April 23).

Race: Junior Miller, Sept. 9, 2006, 90.977 mph, 44 minutes 31 seconds.

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## Nice start for management

New Caraway Speedway track operators Darren and Renee Hackett enjoyed a successful start to the 2010 season during their first event as promoters of the track. Russell Hackett, the long-time track owner- promoter, decided during the offseason to retire from day-to-day operations and opened the door for the second generation Hacketts to assume control.

One of the largest crowds to ever witness a tour race at the track came out for the Spring Classic 150 two weeks ago. The Hackett's will host the tour four more times after this week's Caraway 150. Other dates for tour events this season will be April 23, July 1, Aug. 26 and Sept. 17.

## In Memoriam

Everyone associated with the NASCAR Whelen Southern Modified Tour is saddened after the sudden death of Melissa Loftin, wife of 2008 champion Brian Loftin. Loftin was killed in a traffic accident on March 15 near her home in Lexington, N.C. Melissa was very active with the women's auxiliary and was a constant presence at the track during race weekends.

Brian Loftin won the Coors Light Pole Award at the season-opening Spring Classic 150 two weeks ago and was leading in the race when he and L.W. Miller got together, which ended his day early. Melissa Loftin is survived by her husband Brian and son, Carson. Services were held last weekend.

## Last Week's Event



Austin Pack was the top finishing Sunoco Rookie of the Year candidate in the season opener. Sara D. Davis/Getty Images for NASCAR

- George Brunnhoelzl III took advantage of a little racing luck to pick up his first win on the tour since Oct. 24, 2009 with a victory in the Spring Classic 150. The 2009 champion assumed the lead when Brian Loftin and L.W. Miller got together while racing for the lead, and held on the rest of the way for his seventh career win and fourth at Caraway Speedway.
- Tim Brown continued his hot streak with a solid second-place showing as the Cana, Va., driver now has a win and back-to-back runner-up finishes in his last three starts dating back to last season. Thomas Stinson ran a steady pace all day and came home third for his first career podium finish.
- Stinson improved 13 spots during the race to collect the Coca-Cola Move of the Race Award while Brian Loftin won the Coors Light Pole Award during qualifying that was held on Saturday afternoon.
- James Civali won the Featherlite Most Improved Driver Award for his improvement from his previous race finish and Austin Pack had the best showing of the six rookies in the field to win his first Sunoco Rookie of the Race Award.
- There were also four lead changes among four drivers, and Burt Myers earned the 10 bonus points for leading the most laps (60).

## Up Next: Hickory 150

The NASCAR Whelen Southern Modified Tour visits Hickory (N.C.) Motor Speedway for the Hickory 150 on Saturday, April 2 at 8 p.m. Junior Miller won the most recent race at the track. That 2006 race still holds tour records for the most lead changes (13) and different leaders (6).

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