



The Race: New England Dodge Dealers 75 presented by Charter Cable, Internet & Telephone

The Place: Thompson (Conn.) International Speedway

The Date: Thursday, June 19

The Time: 8:15 p.m. ET

Track Layout: .625-mile banked oval

Race Purse: \$75,165

2007 Winner: Donny Lia

2007 Pole: Tony Hirschman

Rk	Driver	Pts
1	Chuck Hossfeld	515
2	Ted Christopher	479
3	Todd Szegedy	454
4	James Civali	447
5	Rowan Pennink	418
6	Ed Flemke Jr.	412
7	Eric Beers	404
8	Mike Stefanik	384
9	Matt Hirschman	370
10	Bobby Grigas III	356

Schedule:

Thursday, June 19

Practice: 1:45-3:15 p.m.

Time Trials: 5:30 p.m.

Track Contact:

Russ Dowd
(860) 923-2280 or
pitcrew@thompsonspeedway.com

- NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour Set for Green Flag Race at Thompson
- Past Champion Jeff Fuller to be Honored at Thompson
- Hossfeld Returns 'Mystic Missile' to Victory Lane
- Five Questions: Bobby Grigas III
- Home Tracks: Thompson's Thursday Night Thunder



NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour Set for Green Flag Race at Thompson

The second of five trips for the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour to Thompson (Conn.) International Speedway is slated for Thursday, June 19 with the New England Dodge Dealers 75 presented by Charter Cable, Internet & Telephone.

The format, which is unique but not new to the Modified Tour, will see only green flag laps scored. Regardless of how many caution laps are run, the checkered flag will drop with the completion of 75 green-flag laps.

Green flag-only races have been held before on the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour. Three Spring Sizzler races at Stafford (Conn.) Motor Speedway from 1985-87 were 80-lap, green flag-only events, as were two 75-lap races at Oswego (N.Y.) Speedway during the 1988 season.

The NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour also had four green flag races at New Hampshire Motor Speedway from 1995-97. The format for those races counted caution laps, but the race did not conclude

until each of the advertised green flag laps were completed.

During the last 10 NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour races at Thompson, roughly one out of every three laps completed were run under caution. Therefore, recent history says that it will take approximately 118 total laps to produce 75 green flag laps.

"Sometimes our [150 lap] races end up having 80 or 90 laps of green flag at Thompson, so it will be similar," Mike Stefanik said.

A handful of current drivers have participated in the green flag races of years past, including winners Reggie Ruggiero (Stafford, 1987) and Stefanik (New Hampshire, 1995).

"I don't really care how they play it, it's still going to be a great race," Stefanik said. "Modified racing is always fantastic, so whatever the format is, we just blend to it and try to do the best we can with it and see how it all shakes out."



Past Champion Jeff Fuller to be Honored at Thompson

As part of a season-long celebration of 60 years of Modified champions, 1992 NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour titlist Jeff Fuller will be honored at the New England Dodge Dealers 75 presented by Charter Cable, Internet & Telephone on Thursday, June 19 at Thompson (Conn.) International Speedway.

After finishing as the runner-up to Mike Stefanik for the 1991 title, all of the pieces fell into place for Fuller the following season when he racked up six wins, 15 top fives and 18 top 10s in 21 races and finished 314 points ahead of Reggie Ruggiero.

Originally from Auburn, Mass., Fuller was



1992 Modified Champion Jeff Fuller.

one of the most successful drivers during the first 10 years of the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour, and he excelled at Thompson, where he registered a third of his career wins.

Thompson, just a 20-minute drive from his Auburn home, was one of Fuller's best tracks. His first Thompson victory came in the 1990 World Series and he went on to capture the checkered flag in six of the next eight NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour races at the track, including four in a row in 1991-92.

Fuller's success was not limited to the northeastern Connecticut track, however. He was able to compile 31 victories and 28 pole awards during his run in the Modifieds, and both totals rank fourth in the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour record book still today.

A hard-charger who was largely respected by fellow drivers and fans alike, Fuller was named the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour Most Popular Driver in 1992, 1993 and 1994.

Following a successful run in the Modifieds, Fuller moved on to the NASCAR Nationwide Series full time in 1995. Now a resident of Mooresville, N.C., Fuller has made 184 NASCAR Nationwide Series and 13 NASCAR Sprint Cup Series starts.

Race Recap: Hossfeld Returns 'Mystic Missile' to Victory Lane

Chuck Hossfeld piloted the No. 4 'Mystic Missile' Dodge to Victory Lane in the last NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour event on May 23, the TSI Harley-Davidson 150 at Stafford Motor Speedway.

In a race that was delayed nearly two and a half hours at the start, Hossfeld won for the first time since the 2004 season. Hossfeld also won the race Donny Lia did in the No. 4 last year en route to the championship.

The victory was the sixth of Hossfeld's career. Each of his previous wins came in the No. 4 in his first stint with car owner Bob Garbarino, which ended after 2004. Hossfeld rejoined the team in the offseason after Lia left to run in the NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series.

Todd Szegedy was the runner-up followed by Ted Christopher, Mike Stefanik and Jimmy Blewett in fifth. Eric Beers, Ed Flemke Jr., Ryan Preece, James Civali and rookie Erick Rudolph rounded out the top 10.

Prior to the race NASCAR honored seven-time NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour Champion Mike Stefanik as part of the season-long celebration of 60 years of Modified champions.



Hossfeld won from the pole at Stafford.



News & Notes



The Race ... The New England Dodge Dealers 75 will be the fourth of 16 races in 2008. This will also be the second of five stops for the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour at Thompson International Speedway. The checkered flag for this race will drop at the conclusion of 75 green flag laps as caution laps will not be scored.

The Procedure ... Starting Positions 1-30 will be set from time trials with an additional five provisional positions rounding out the field.

The Track ... A .625-mile banked oval that opened in 1940, Thompson Speedway was the first asphalt track in the nation, and the largest in New England until New Hampshire Motor Speedway opened in 1990.

Race Winners ... There have been 29 different race winners at Thompson, led by **Mike Stefanik's** 14 victories, which is four more than **Jeff Fuller**. **Ed Flemke Jr.** won the first race at Thompson this year on April 27. The entry list for this race is expected to include at least 10 drivers who have reached Victory Lane at Thompson before.

Pole Winners ... There have been 34 different pole winners at Thompson, led by **Jeff Fuller** and **Tony Hirschman's** 13. **James Civali** won the pole in the first race at Thompson this year. **Todd Szegedy** set the qualifying record at Thompson prior to the 2007 Icebreaker at 18.457 seconds (121.905 mph).

This Week's Birthdays ... **Billy Pauch Jr.** turned 21 on June 16 and **Anthony Sesely** will be 25 on June 20.

Latest "Over-the-Hill" Additions ... **Mike Stefanik** turned 50 on May 20 and **Ted Christopher**, along with his twin brother Mike, celebrated the big 5-0 on June 5.

Upcoming Benchmarks/Milestones

- **Jamie Tomaino** will pass \$1 million in career earnings with his record 489th career start at Thompson.
- **Ed Flemke Jr.** has made 298 consecutive starts heading into this race.
- **Ted Christopher's** next victory will put him in sole possession of fifth place on the all-time list.
- Christopher is two starts away from 250 for his career.



Season To-Date

Threes are Wild ... In three races so far this year the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour has produced three different race victors and three different pole winners. **James Civali, Chuck Hossfeld** and **Ryan Preece** have nabbed the Coors Light Pole Award so far this year, while **Ted Christopher, Ed Flemke Jr.** and Hossfeld have celebrated in Victory Lane.

Title Frontrunners? ... Although the season is not even a quarter of the way complete, a pair of drivers have shown so far that the 2008 title chase could be interesting. Atop the points standings after three events, Hossfeld holds a slim 36-point lead over Christopher. Both

have won a race this season and have finished in the top 10 at each stop. Christopher's 10th in the season-opener at Thompson marks the only time that either has failed to finish in the top three in a race. Combined, Hossfeld and Christopher have led 37 percent of the laps run this year.

Sixty Years of Champions ... Each stop along the way during the 16-race 2008 schedule NASCAR will honor selected past champions of the sanctioning body's oldest division. So far **Red Byron, Richie Evans, Ernie Gahan, Donny Lia, Frankie Schneider** and **Mike Stefanik** have been recognized for their championship seasons. **Jeff Fuller** will be honored prior to this race.

Up Next: New England 100 at New Hampshire

The fifth race on the 2008 schedule for the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour will be held at the "Magic Mile" - New Hampshire Motor Speedway - in Loudon, N.H. The New England 100 will take place on Saturday, June 28.

The largest venue that the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour will visit in 2008, New Hampshire's one-mile oval has served as host for the Modifieds since the facility opened in 1990. In all, there have been 46 NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour races at New Hampshire.

A weekend full of racing at New Hampshire, the NASCAR Camping World Series East will take the green flag on Friday, June 27. The NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour will take the track first on Saturday followed by the NASCAR Nationwide Series, and the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series will close out the weekend on Sunday, June 29. The NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour will qualify on Thursday, June 26.

Drivers and fans alike look forward to the



Modifieds running at New Hampshire. With long straightaways, drafting comes into play, which can result in a number of lead changes. Like the national series at Daytona and Talladega, the Modifieds require a restrictor plate at New Hampshire to curb horsepower.

Donny Lia captured the New England 100 a year ago en route to the series title. His departure to the NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series leaves Victory Lane open to the entire field of entries, which is expected to include at least five drivers who have won at the track before.

The June 28 race will be the first of two stops for the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour at New Hampshire. The Modifieds will return on Sept. 13.

Five Questions: Bobby Grigas III

Your first three races have been like a rollercoaster. What will it take to get to Victory Lane?

The biggest problem we have right now is that I really don't have a guy that is leading the team, and I don't have an experienced team. The cars are really good. They have that saying 'the races are won at the shop,' and the cars are always setup good. It's just going to take the whole package to get me to the Victory Lane.

What is the most important lesson you've learned about Modified racing in your brief career?

Keep the wheels on the car and finish, then the

top fives and the wins will happen.

What's been the biggest difference between your first and second year in a Modified?

Last season I was too busy wrecking the car. I was just too aggressive and anxious with a car that wasn't really meant to go to the front.

You've been racing for just five years. How did you get started?

There used to be a Modified team beside my father's shop. One day the owner came over and asked if we would like to sponsor the car. We gave them a little something, then my dad started going to the races to see his name on the car.

Thursday Night Thunder

Like many tracks throughout the northeast, Mother Nature put a damper on racing in late spring at Thompson International Speedway, but things are now heating up in the six NASCAR Whelen All-American Series divisions that comprise "Thursday



Night Thunder" at the Connecticut oval.

With three races in the books, Kerry Malone and Josh Sylvester are the co-points leaders in Thompson's premier division, the Sunoco Modifieds. Keith Rocco, who entered last week's race third in the NWAAS national standings, now sits fifth in points at Thompson after taking the checkered flag. NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour regulars **Jimmy Blewett** and **Bobby Grigas III** are eighth and ninth in points, respectively.

Michael O'Sullivan will enter the fourth race of the season with a six point lead in the Pro Stock division while Jeff Zuidema clings to a four-point edge in the Late Models.

With a win apiece, Glenn Boss and R.J. Marcotte are tied atop the Thompson Modified standings after three races, and a tie also exists in the Limited Sportsman division where Scott Sundeen and Larry Barnett share the lead.

Rick Blanchard has the largest points lead of Thompson's six weekly divisions entering the fourth race of the season, a 22-point advantage in the Mini Stocks.

Thompson's "Thursday Night Thunder" will once again be in full swing on June 19 as each of the six divisions will hit the asphalt prior to the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour.

Then we kind of got into the racing. I did F1 Boston, and I was good at it. I didn't have any racing experience, but I just won. So I was like 'let's try Seekonk [Speedway].' So we went out and bought a decent Late Model and we ended up finishing 10th in points. That's how I really got going, we just kind of tried it.

A resident of Marshfield, Mass., what's life like living next to the ocean?

Growing up by the beach, it was fun. I've talked to people who've never seen the ocean before, and I take it for granted because its two minutes down the road. Its fun, there's a lot of perks.



2008 NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour Special Awards Standings

COORS LIGHT POLE AWARD

James Civali	1
Chuck Hossfeld	1
Ryan Preece	1



FEATHERLITE MOST IMPROVED

DRIVER

Joe Hartmann	1
Ryan Preece	1
Jamie Tomaino	1



SUNOCO ROOKIE OF THE RACE

AWARD

Tom Abele Jr.	1
Glen Reen	1
Erick Rudolph	1



WHELEN ENGINEERING WINNER OF THE RACE AWARD

Ted Christopher	1
Ed Flemke Jr.	1
Chuck Hossfeld	1



POWERADE POWER MOVE OF THE RACE

Tom Abele Jr.	1
Glen Reen	1
Mike Stefanik	1



SUNOCO ROOKIE OF THE YEAR POINTS STANDINGS

Glen Reen	28
Tom Abele Jr.	19
Erick Rudolph	10
Sean Patterson	8

For more information, contact:
Jason Cunningham, NASCAR Public Relations
(704) 201-6658 or jcunningham@nascar.com

2008 NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour Schedule / Results

DATE	RACE	FACILITY	2008 POLESITTER	2008 RACE WINNER
April 6	Icebreaker	Thompson (Conn.) International Speedway	James Civali	Ed Flemke Jr.
April 27	Tech-Net Spring Sizzler Presented by Carquest	Stafford (Conn.) Motor Speedway	Ryan Preece	Ted Christopher
May 23	TSI Harley-Davidson 150	Stafford (Conn.) Motor Speedway	Chuck Hossfeld	Chuck Hossfeld
DATE	RACE	FACILITY	2007 POLESITTER	2007 RACE WINNER
June 19	New England Dodge Dealers 75*	Thompson (Conn.) International Speedway	Richard Savary	Donny Lia
July 28	New England 100	New Hampshire Motor Speedway, Loudon, N.H.	Ted Christopher	Donny Lia
July 12	NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour	Spencer Speedway, Williamson, N.Y.	---	---
Aug. 2	Miller Lite NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour	Riverhead (N.Y.) Raceway	Ted Christopher	Donny Lia
Aug. 8	New England Dodge Dealers 150	Stafford (Conn.) Motor Speedway	Tony Hirschman	Ted Christopher
Aug. 14	Budweiser 150	Thompson (Conn.) International Speedway	Todd Szegedy	Todd Szegedy
Aug. 23	NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour	Mansfield (Ohio) Motorsports Park	Donny Lia	James Civali
Sept. 7	Sunoco Modified Mania	Thompson (Conn.) International Speedway	Donny Lia	Ronnie Silk
Sept. 13	New Hampshire 100	New Hampshire Motor Speedway, Loudon, N.H.	Todd Szegedy	Todd Szegedy
Sept. 20	Made in America Whelen 300 **	Martinsville (Va.) Speedway	Donny Lia	Donny Lia
Sept. 28	Carquest Fall Final	Stafford (Conn.) Motor Speedway	Eric Beers	Mike Stefanik
Oct. 4	NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour	Chemung (N.Y.) Speedrome	---	---
Oct. 18	World Series	Thompson (Conn.) International Speedway	Tony Ferrante, Jr.	Bobby Santos

* Green Flag-Only Laps

** Combined Race With Whelen Southern Modified Tour