



WHELEN MODIFIED TOUR

News & Notes

RACE 9 | CHEMUNG SPEEDROME

FAST FACTS

The Race: Chemung 120
 The Place: Chemung (N.Y.) Speedrome
 The Date: Saturday, Aug. 29
 The Time: 8 p.m. ET
 The Distance: 120 laps / 45 miles
 Race Purse: \$57,365
 2008 Winner: Matt Hirschman
 2008 Polesitter: Matt Hirschman

Event Schedule:
 Practice 1 - 2 p.m.; Qualifying 4:15 p.m.,
 Qualifying Heats 5:30 p.m.

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2009 STANDINGS

| Rk | Driver | Points |
|----|-----------------|--------|
| 1 | Ted Christopher | 1,262 |
| 2 | Todd Szegedy | 1,233 |
| 3 | Ryan Preece | 1,230 |
| 4 | Donny Lia | 1,180 |
| 5 | Rowan Pennink | 1,128 |
| 6 | Woody Pitkat | 1,072 |
| 7 | Eric Beers | 1,040 |
| 8 | Jimmy Blewett | 1,039 |
| 9 | Ed Flemke Jr. | 1,034 |
| 10 | Chris Pasteryak | 1,008 |

- Chemung To Welcome Whelen Modified Tour
- 25 Seasons Running: Bodines Build Chemung
- Tour Tidbits: Lia Earns Another Big Win



The NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour will make its third trip to Chemung (N.Y.) Speedrome this weekend.

Chemung To Welcome Whelen Modified Tour

For the second year in a row – and just the third time in series history – the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour will head to Chemung (N.Y.) Speedrome for the Chemung 120 on Saturday, Aug. 29.

Coming off one of the biggest events in the 25-year history of the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour last week at Bristol Motor Speedway, the Tour will return to its roots – local short-track racing – this week at the .375-mile asphalt oval in New York's Southern Tier.

The NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour first went to Chemung in 2001 after the track had been shuttered for more than two decades. **Tony Hirschman** earned the Coors Light Pole Award and **Jerry Marquis** the win in the inaugural event. After a seven-year absence, the Tour returned to

Chemung in 2008 in an event that saw Tony's son, **Matt Hirschman**, dominate. The younger Hirschman captured the pole and one of the two qualifying heats before leading wire-to-wire in the 122-lap main.

While neither Hirschman has plans of racing in the 2009 edition, there will be plenty of competition for the checkered flag on Saturday night. With the season past the halfway point, championship aspirations are starting to take shape for a number of teams in contention.

Ted Christopher, who has held the points lead for 14 of the last 15 races dating back to last year, will take a lead of just 29 points to the ninth date on the schedule. **Todd Szegedy**, the only driver to record a top 10 in each of the eight races this year,

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Raceday Notes

The Race ... The Chemung 120 will be the third and final appearance for the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour in the state of New York in 2009, and the last of three qualifying-format races.

The Procedure ... Two-lap time trials will determine the starting lineup for two 25-lap heat races with fastest odd cars in the first heat and fastest even cars in the second. Starting positions 1-23 will be determined from qualifying heats with the top 12 finishers in the first heat and the top 11 in the second transferring to the main. The remaining five will be filled through the provisional process. The main is 120 laps (45 miles).

The Track ... Chemung Speedrome is a .375-mile banked asphalt oval that re-opened in 2000 after sitting dormant for 22 years. The track was originally a quarter-mile dirt oval built in 1951 by the Bodine family.

Race Winners ... Chemung has held just two NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour races since it reopened in 2000. **Jerry Marquis** won in 2001 and **Matt Hirschman** captured the 2008 event.

Pole Winners ... Both poles at Chemung belong to one family. Father **Tony Hirschman** earned the 2001 pole and son **Matt Hirschman** turned the fastest lap in 2008.



Matt Hirschman won the pole, a heat race and the main in last year's Chemung 120.

Tour Returns To Southern Tier

(Continued from page 1)

is hot on Christopher's heels in second and was the runner-up to Matt Hirschman last year at Chemung.

The chase for the championship is far from a two-horse race, however. **Ryan Preece** has a pair of wins and two other top fives in the last four races and is just 32 points back of Christopher. **Donny Lia's** big race performances also have him in contention. The 2007 NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour champion won in June at New Hampshire Motor Speedway and was victorious in the inaugural Bristol combination race last week. Lia will enter his first race at Chemung 82 points out of first.

The third trip for the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour to Chemung will see action begin on race day with practice at 1 p.m. Time trials

will be held at 4:15 p.m. and the twin 25-lap qualifying races are set to commence at 5:30 p.m. The 120-lap main is scheduled to go green at approximately 8 p.m.



Ted Christopher got spun in last year's event at Chemung, but battled back for a seventh-place finish and retained the points lead.

25 Seasons Running: Bodine's Build Chemung

Eli Bodine Sr. and Jr., grandfather and father of NASCAR Modified and eventual Sprint Cup Series stars Geoff and Brett, founded Chemung Speedrome in 1951.

Interest arose in the area for a race track and the elder Bodine found a spot with natural banking on his land along Wyncoop Creek Road in Chemung. The track opened in 1951 as a quarter-mile dirt oval, was later expanded to a third-mile and was paved in 1969. The track continued to be owned and operated by the Bodine family until 1978.

Geoff and Brett both got their starts in auto racing at the family's track. Geoff began in the Micro Midget division there when he was five years old. Geoff became one of the most successful drivers in Modified history and won a record 55 races in 1978.

Brett began his racing career at Chemung in 1977 in the Hobby Stock division and moved to the Modifieds in 1979. Like his older brother, Brett found a high level of success in the NASCAR Modifieds early in his career.

Geoff and Brett both went on to have distinguished NASCAR Sprint Cup Series careers and younger brother

Todd is currently a full-time competitor in the NASCAR Camping World Truck Series.

The Bodine family closed their Chemung track in 1978 and it sat dormant for more than two decades. The property was bought in 1985 by Bob Stapleton and John White, who started to rebuild the facility in 1997. A sister track to Spencer Speedway in Williamson, N.Y. – owned by White – Chemung reopened as a .375-mile banked asphalt oval in 2000. Chemung runs its NASCAR Whelen All-American Series program weekly on Saturday nights and is the home track of defending NWAAS New York State Champion Tony Hanbury.



Chemung Speedrome is located among the rolling hills of New York's Southern Tier region.



Tour Tidbits: Lia Earns Another Big Win



Lia Earns Historic Bristol Win ... The historic inaugural trip to Bristol Motor Speedway for the NASCAR Whelen Modified and Whelen Southern Modified Tours was captured by **Donny Lia**. Lia now has won four of the last six races held at national series tracks. He won the June races at New Hampshire Motor Speedway in 2007 and 2009, the combination race at Martinsville Speedway in 2007 and now the combo race at Bristol. In those two races in which he did not win – the September New Hampshire races in 2007 and 2008 – he finished third and fourth (in **Rob Summers'** car), respectively.

NWMT Strong in Combo Races ... The NASCAR Whelen Modified and Whelen Southern Modified Tours have competed in combination races at Martinsville since 2005. This year a second combo event was added to the schedule at Bristol, but the storyline remained the same: the North still rules. Eight of

the top 10 cars to cross the line on Wednesday were teams from the NWMT. Last year at Martinsville, it was nine of 10 after Burt Myers – who took the checkered flag – was disqualified. The NWSMT's highest finisher in the five all-time combo races is L.W. Miller's third-place effort in 2007.

Title Chase Remains Tight ... The 2009 season has all the makings for another down-to-the-wire title chase. Last year it took until the last race of the season to decide whether **Ted Christopher** or **Matt Hirschman** would hold the trophy, and with the current season past its halfway point, Christopher once again has a fight on his hands as **Todd Szegedy** is just 29 points back and **Ryan Preece** is in third, 32 tallies out.

Unhappy Returns ... Bristol marked the return for former full-time NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour competitors **Matt Hirschman** and **James Civali**. Hirschman was filling in for **Kevin Goodale** while Civali was driving as a teammate to **Ron Silk**. Unfortunately for both, they were caught up in an accident on just the second lap of the race.

Unlucky Streak for Silk, Stefanik ... Bristol also turned out to be a disappointing trip for **Ron Silk** and **Mike Stefanik**. Engine problems for both resulted in their third-straight DNFs, which have dropped them to 12th and 11th in the standings, respectively.

Up Next: Budweiser 150 At Thompson

The NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour and Thompson (Conn.) International Speedway will make a second attempt to run the Budweiser 150 presented by New England Dodge Dealers on Thursday, Sept. 3.

The race was originally scheduled to run on Aug. 13, but rain on race day called off the action. The second of three races at Thompson in 2009 will now be the 10th race of the year for the Tour following this week's event at Chemung (N.Y.) Speedrome.

The Budweiser 150 will be the 108th all-time NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour race at Thompson. Now in its 25th season, the Tour has held more races at Thompson than at any other track. Stafford is second on the list with 93, including this week's event.

Ted Christopher was the show in the season's first race at Thompson – the Icebreaker – on April 5. The defending NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour champion earned both the Coors Light Pole Award and a trip to Victory

Lane in the event. He also won last year's season finale at Thompson to bring in a two-race win streak at the .625-mile oval.

Ron Silk, who has recorded all three of his NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour wins at Thompson, will look to reach Victory Lane for the first time in 2009. He is the defending champion of the Budweiser 150 and finished sixth in the first race of 2009.



Ted Christopher has won the last two races at Thompson.

Home Tracks:

Saturdays At The Speedrome

Chemung Speedrome is the place to be on Saturday nights during the summer as the .375-mile banked oval runs its weekly NASCAR Whelen All-American Series program.

Chemung has seven total divisions that compete throughout the year, headed by the NASCAR Weekly Modifieds. While **Tony Hanbury** has multiple track titles at Chemung in recent seasons, **JR Kent** has been the class of the field in 2009.

Kent had six wins and 14 top fives in 15 starts through action on Aug. 15 and had a substantial 131-point lead on **Charlie Sharpsteen** in the division's season standings.

Hanbury, who is second in the division with three wins, was fifth in points at 575.

As of racing through Aug. 15, here are the other Chemung division leaders:

Super Stocks: **Jeff Goodwin**
Four Cylinders: **Gene Purvis**
Legends: **Matt Priscott**
Bandoleros: **Andrew Bickford**
Juniors: **Dayton Cote**
Mod Lites: **Zach Curren**



Most Popular Driver Voting Now Open

For the second year in a row, it will be up to the fans to determine the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour Most Popular Driver. In the inaugural

season of online balloting, **Ted Christopher** came away victorious in a close vote. Fans can vote now through the end of the season on Oct. 18.

Just go to www.nascarhometracks.com to vote for your favorite NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour driver, and cast votes for NASCAR's other touring series as well while you're there.





Contingency Standings

Whelen Winner of the Race Award

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Ted Christopher | 2 |
| Donny Lia | 2 |
| Ryan Preece | 2 |
| Jimmy Blewett | 1 |
| Erick Rudolph | 1 |



Coors Light Pole Award

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Ted Christopher | 3 |
| Eric Berndt | 1 |
| Doug Coby | 1 |
| Ryan Preece | 1 |



Coca-Cola Move of the Race Award

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Eric Beers | 1 |
| Eric Goodale | 1 |
| Kevin Goodale | 1 |
| Bobby Grigas III | 1 |
| Ken Heagy | 1 |
| Danny Knoll Jr. | 1 |
| Woody Pitkat | 1 |
| Erick Rudolph | 1 |



Featherlite Most Improved Driver Award

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Bobby Grigas III | 2 |
| Eric Beers | 1 |
| Ted Christopher | 1 |
| Chris Pasteryak | 1 |
| Erick Rudolph | 1 |
| Reggie Ruggiero | 1 |
| Ron Silk | 1 |



Sunoco Rookie of the Race Award

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Eric Goodale | 8 |
|--------------------|---|



Sunoco Rookie of the Year Standings

| | |
|-------------------------|----|
| Eric Goodale | 80 |
| Tommy Farrell III | 35 |
| Rob Fuller | 9 |

2009 NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour Schedule

| DATE | RACE | FACILITY | 2009 POLESITTER | 2009 RACE WINNER |
|----------|--|--|-----------------|------------------|
| April 5 | Icebreaker | Thompson (Conn.) International Speedway | Ted Christopher | Ted Christopher |
| April 26 | Tech-Net Spring Sizzler pres. by CARQUEST | Stafford (Conn.) Motor Speedway | Ted Christopher | Ted Christopher |
| May 22 | TSI Harley-Davidson Classic | Stafford (Conn.) Motor Speedway | Ted Christopher | Jimmy Blewett |
| June 27 | New England 100 | New Hampshire Motor Speedway, Loudon, N.H. | Doug Coby | Donny Lia |
| July 11 | Spencer Speedway 155 * | Spencer Speedway, Williamson, N.Y. | None | Erick Rudolph |
| Aug. 1 | Riverhead 175 * | Riverhead (N.Y.) Raceway | Ryan Preece | Ryan Preece |
| Aug. 7 | Town Fair Tire 150 | Stafford (Conn.) Motor Speedway | Eric Berndt | Ryan Preece |
| Aug. 19 | UNOH Perfect Storm 150 + | Bristol (Tenn.) Motor Speedway | None-rain | Donny Lia |
| DATE | RACE | FACILITY | 2008 POLESITTER | 2008 RACE WINNER |
| Aug. 29 | Chemung 120 * | Chemung (N.Y.) Speedrome | Matt Hirschman | Matt Hirschman |
| Sept. 3 | Budweiser 150 pres. by New England Dodge Dealers | Thompson (Conn.) International Speedway | None-rain | Ron Silk |
| Sept. 19 | New Hampshire 100 | New Hampshire Motor Speedway, Loudon, N.H. | Ryan Newman | Ted Christopher |
| Sept. 27 | Made In America Whelen 200 + | Martinsville (Va.) Speedway | Ryan Preece | Ryan Preece |
| Oct. 4 | CARQUEST Fall Final | Stafford (Conn.) Motor Speedway | Mike Stefanik | Mike Stefanik |
| Oct. 18 | World Series | Thompson (Conn.) International Speedway | Eric Beers | Ted Christopher |

* Qualifying Format Race

+ Combined Race With Whelen Southern Modified Tour