



WHELEN MODIFIED TOUR

News & Notes

Year-End Edition

Fast Facts

The Event: NASCAR Night of Champions Touring Awards Gala

The Place: Concord Convention Center Hall, Concord, N.C.

The Date: Saturday, Nov. 14

The Time: 7 p.m. ET

Broadcast Schedule: Streamed Live on NASCARHomeTracks.com

- Lia's Run Highlights 25th Season
- Tour Tidbits: Season Wrap-Up
- Awards Gala To Honor Touring Champions



2009 Leaders

Victories.....	Donny Lia, 4
Poles.....	Ted Christopher, 3
Laps Led.....	Ted Christopher, 622
Races Led.....	Ted Christopher, 9
Laps Completed.....	Ryan Preece, 1,844
Average Finish.....	Donny Lia, 6.1
Top-Five Finishes.....	Ryan Preece, 10
Top-10 Finishes.....	Donny Lia, 11
.....	Ryan Preece, Rowan Pennink, 11

NASCAR Contact:

Jason Cunningham
(704) 201-6658
jcunningham@nascar.com



Donny Lia and the No. 4 "Mystic Missile" Dodge team celebrated the 2009 NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour championship at Thompson (Conn.) International Speedway on Oct. 25.

2009 FINAL STANDINGS

Rk	Driver	Points
1	Donny Lia	2,020
2	Ryan Preece	2,004
3	Ted Christopher	1,931
4	Rowan Pennink	1,867
5	Todd Szegedy	1,823
6	Chris Pasteryak	1,691
7	Mike Stefanik	1,650
8	Eric Beers	1,645
9	Woody Pitkat	1,621
10	Ed Flemke Jr.	1,602

Lia's Run Highlights 25th Whelen Modified Tour Season

The 25th Season of the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour was one of the most competitive in recent memory as five drivers entered the final race of the season with a mathematical shot at the championship.

As the green flag dropped on the season finale at Thompson (Conn.) International Speedway on Oct. 25, however, it was a two-horse race for the 2009 crown between **Donny Lia** and **Ryan Preece**. The pair had an eventful season to get to that point, one that is sure to be memorable for both.

Lia captured the 2007 Whelen Modified Tour championship and parlayed his momentum to a ride in the NASCAR Camping World Truck Series the following season. When things didn't pan out for him to stay in the Truck Series for 2009, Bob Garbarino - the car owner he won the championship

with two years earlier - welcomed him back for another title run.

After a season in the full-fendered Truck Series, Lia didn't skip a beat as he finished third in the season-opener and reached Victory Lane for the first time in the fourth race of the year at New Hampshire Motor Speedway.

Preece, meanwhile, began his second season for Boehler Racing Enterprises with a fourth-place finish in the opener and caught fire toward the middle of the schedule with back-to-back wins at Riverhead (N.Y.) Raceway and Stafford (Conn.) Motor Speedway.

As the season progressed, Lia and Preece were on a collision course, but they couldn't have known it at the time because defending Whelen Modified

(Continued on page 3)

Year-End Awards Gala Set In Industry Hub

NASCAR will honor its "stars of tomorrow" and short-track veterans by gathering them in the greater Charlotte area for two special year-end celebrations.

With a special week of activities culminating in the 2009 NASCAR Whelen All-American Series (NWAAS) Awards Banquet on Friday, Nov. 13, and the new NASCAR Night of Champions Touring Awards Gala on Saturday, Nov. 14, NASCAR brings its season-ending ceremonies home to the industry hub — Concord, N.C.

"This is a tremendous opportunity to raise the bar for all of NASCAR's developmental racing series, by bringing the champions from all of our series to the core of much of the motorsports industry," said George Silbermann, managing director of racing operations. "In addition to these two prestigious awards banquets, we are planning a number of special activities for our series champions, for attending track operators and for the industry. We look to take full advantage of what this hub of the stock-car racing industry has to offer."

Both season-end awards banquets will be held in the recently-completed Embassy Suites Hotel Concord Convention Center which is located near the NASCAR Research & Development Center, in proximity to the future NASCAR Hall of Fame complex, as well as the home bases of many of today's NASCAR Sprint Cup Series, NASCAR Nationwide Series and NASCAR Camping World Truck Series teams.

Moving the banquets to the Charlotte area complements the commitment the community has made to the business of NASCAR and the development of the NASCAR Hall of Fame scheduled to open May 2010.

The NWAAS Awards Banquet will feature weekly racing drivers from top short tracks across the United States and Canada. Invited attendees will include the 2009 NWAAS national champion, NWAAS state and provincial champions, all 58 track champions, the national/state/provincial rookies of the year, the 2009 Wendell Scott Trailblazer Award winner and many others.

The NASCAR Night of Champions Touring Gala will feature the champions and top drivers from all of NASCAR's North American regional touring series including invitees from the NASCAR Camping World Series East, the NASCAR Camping World Series West, the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour, the NASCAR Whelen Southern Modified Tour and the NASCAR Canadian Tire Series.

Tour Tidbits: Season Wrap-Up

Lia Moves Up Career Lists: Donny Lia's 2009 NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour championship season was highlighted by four wins, which moved him up to a tie for 12th on the career wins list with another two-time champion: **Jimmy Spencer**. Additionally, the Long Islander recorded a pair of Coors Light Pole Awards to also bring his career total to 15, which has him tied with **Ed Flemke Jr.** for 10th on the all-time list.



Ryan Preece had eight podium finishes in 2009, highlighted by a pair of wins.

2009 Season Sees Preece Become College Student, Championship Contender: In between graduating from high school and starting college, **Ryan Preece** put together a title-contending campaign in just his third season in the Whelen Modified Tour. Preece, who turned 19 on the same day as the season ended at Thompson (Conn.) International Speedway, recorded a Tour-high 10 top fives during the 13-race season and finished just 16 points behind champion **Donny Lia** in the standings.



Ted Christopher had three wins, three poles and finished third in the standings.

Christopher Unable to Repeat Despite Stellar Season: Ted Christopher makes 50 look like the new 30 when it comes to racing as he seems to be in his prime. After capturing his first Whelen Modified Tour title in 2008 at the age of 50, Christopher turned in another dominant campaign in 2009, but was foiled by two DNFs late in the season. Christopher topped the standings for 10 of the 13 races and registered three wins and three poles, but had to settle for third in points.

Christopher's Record Book Assault: Winning races is nothing new to Christopher, he's been at it throughout his career. With three more wins in 2009, Christopher is now up to 34 for his career, one shy of tying **Tony Hirschman** for third on the all-time list. With three Coors Light Pole Awards this season, his career total now sits at 21, which ranks eighth. All three poles came at the beginning of the season, and it was the first time in the 25 years of the Whelen Modified Tour that a driver had earned more than one to start a season.

Stefanik Returns to Victory Lane: For the 70th time in his career, and record-setting fifth time at Martinsville (Va.) Speedway, **Mike Stefanik** took the checkered flag. Stefanik - who holds nearly every Whelen Modified Tour record - has recorded at least one win in every season he has competed full time, and of the 25 years of the Whelen Modified Tour, he has wins in 22. With his triumph at Martinsville, Stefanik became the first driver in any NASCAR series outside the Sprint Cup Series to earn 70 victories.



Rowan Pennink experienced a breakout year in 2009.

Solid Campaign for Pennink: Like Preece, **Rowan Pennink's** third Whelen Modified Tour campaign was by far his best. The Pennsylvania native recorded five top fives and tied with two other drivers for the most top 10s with 11. In his previous two seasons, Pennink had a combined eight top 10s with no top fives.

Another Top-Five for Szegedy: Although he missed out on a trip to Victory Lane for the first time as a full-time competitor, **Todd Szegedy** was able to extend his streak of top-five points finishes to four years running.

Tomaino, Flemke Build on Streaks: Whelen Modified Tour stalwarts **Jamie Tomaino** and **Flemke** continued their amazing string of starts in 2009. Tomaino became the first driver to record 500 career starts and has missed just five of the 516 all-time races, while Flemke's record streak for consecutive starts was extended to 324.



Up Next: NASCAR Toyota All-Star Showdown

NASCAR's premier short-track racing showcase, the 2010 NASCAR Toyota All-Star Showdown, will be run Jan. 29-30 at the Toyota Speedway at Irwindale (Calif.).



The seventh running of the event, which brings together the top racers from across North America for the "Daytona 500 of short-track racing," will be highlighted by the 225-lap NASCAR Camping World Series all-star race.

The schedule also includes a 100-lap NASCAR Whelen All-American Series Super Late Model race and a 75-lap NASCAR Whelen All-American Series Late Model race. Both nights of racing will air live on SPEED as part of full weekend of racing on SPEED that includes the Rolex 24 at Daytona sports-car event.

The NASCAR Toyota All-Star Showdown was held in the fall for its first five years. It was moved to January last year to give competitors more time to prepare and also to increase exposure for drivers and teams.

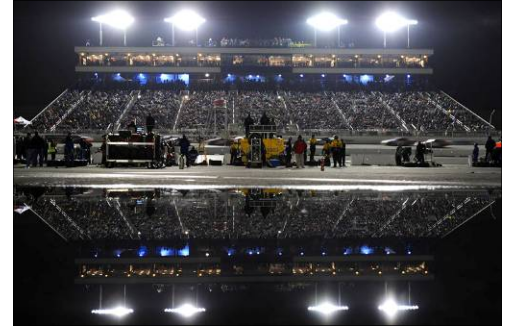
The result was an event that had everybody

talking. Current NASCAR Sprint Cup Series Raybestos Rookie of the Year candidate **Joey Logano** went for the win on the final turn of the final lap and collected race leader **Peyton Sellers**. Instead of a second straight showdown victory, Logano was penalized for the move, and the victory went to **Matt Kobyluck**, giving him his second career win in the event.

It was just another of a long line of exciting finishes to the all-star race.

Each race winner during the 2009 NASCAR Camping World Series season earned a protected starting spot in the main event. Also, 2009 series champions of NASCAR's regional touring series – the NASCAR Camping World Series East (**Ryan Truex**), NASCAR Camping World Series West (**Jason Bowles**), NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour (**Donny Lia**), NASCAR Whelen Southern Modified Tour (**George Brunnhoelzl III**), NASCAR Canadian Tire Series (**Andrew Ranger**), and NASCAR Mexico Series (**Germán Quiroga**) along with the 2009 national champion for the NASCAR Whelen All-American Series (**Philip Morris**) have protected starting spots.

The remainder of the starting lineup will be



All Lit Up: The lights will be on at Toyota Speedway at Irwindale (Calif.) in January for the NASCAR Toyota All-Star Showdown.

determined through time trials, limited provisionals for NASCAR Camping World Series regulars and the last-chance "Open" race that provides drivers one final chance to make the grid.

New this year, the top five NASCAR Whelen All-American Series state champions – as determined by the final national standings – entered in the Late Model race will be eligible for protected starting spots.

Lia Earns Second Title In Three Years In Exciting Fashion



Donny Lia registered four wins and 11 top 10s in 13 outings in 2009.

(Continued from page 1)

Champion **Ted Christopher** had a stranglehold on the championship points lead. Christopher won the first two races of the year and put together solid runs week-in and week-out in a bid to repeat.

Following the back-to-back wins of Preece to begin August, Lia went out and won the next two races at Bristol (Tenn.) Motor Speedway and Thompson, while Preece finished third at the "World's Fastest Half Mile," but slipped outside the top 10 for just the second time of the season at Thompson.

Following the 10th race of the season at New Hampshire, Christopher led Lia by 48 points and Preece by 74. But things took a quick turn as Christopher's engine trouble at Martinsville (Va.) Speedway resulted in a 30th-place finish. A similar fate befell the defending champ at Stafford in the next-to-last race of the season as he was relegated to 31st after a pair of accidents.

Meanwhile, Lia finished eighth at Martinsville and won; Stafford and Preece finished third in both. The showdown was set as Lia took a slim 26-point lead on Preece to the season finale

while Christopher had slipped to third in the standings.

Commendable seasons from **Todd Szegedy** and **Rowan Pennink** had them mathematically in the title hunt entering the last day of the season like Christopher, but when the green flag dropped, it was between Lia and Preece. The pair ran up front the majority of the race, and at times threw caution to the wind with a championship on the line in an effort to win, but Christopher took the checkered flag. Preece - the race runner-up - also found himself as the championship runner-up as he was not able to gain enough ground on Lia, who crossed the line in fourth. The final championship margin was 16 points, the closest since 1996.

Lia's second title in three years was bolstered by four wins, a pair of poles and 11 top 10s in 13 outings. In two seasons with Garbarino and the No. 4 "Mystic Missile" team, he has compiled a pair of titles, 10 wins and 24 top 10s in 29 starts.

Runner-up Preece had the two wins, a pair of poles and a Tour-high 10 top fives. In the last eight races of the season he finished on the podium seven times.

Stay up-to-date on the latest NASCAR Canadian Tire Series news and information along with all of NASCAR's regional and local racing series at:



www.nascarhometracks.com



Contingency Standings

Whelen Winner of the Race Award

Donny Lia.....	4
Ted Christopher.....	3
Ryan Preece.....	2
Jimmy Blewett.....	1
Erick Rudolph.....	1
Ron Silk.....	1
Mike Stefanik.....	1



Coors Light Pole Award

Ted Christopher.....	3
Donny Lia.....	2
Ryan Preece.....	2
Eric Berndt.....	1
Doug Coby.....	1
Ron Silk.....	1



Coca-Cola Move of the Race Award

Eric Beers.....	2
Doug Coby.....	1
Eric Goodale.....	1
Kevin Goodale.....	1
Bobby Grigas III.....	1
Ken Heagy.....	1
Danny Knoll Jr.....	1
Donny Lia.....	1
Gary McDonald.....	1
Rowan Pennink.....	1
Woody Pitkat.....	1
Erick Rudolph.....	1



Featherlite Most Improved Driver Award

Ted Christopher.....	2
Bobby Grigas III.....	2
Erick Rudolph.....	2
Eric Beers.....	1
Chris Pasteryak.....	1
Glen Reen.....	1
Reggie Ruggiero.....	1
Ron Silk.....	1
Mike Stefanik.....	1
Todd Szegedy.....	1



Sunoco Rookie of the Race Award

Eric Goodale.....	13
-------------------	----

Sunoco Rookie of the Year Standings

Eric Goodale.....	130
Tommy Farrell III.....	35
Rob Fuller.....	18



2009 NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour Results

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 - rain	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
Sept. 3	Budweiser 150 pres. by New England Dodge Dealers	Thompson (Conn.) International Speedway	Donny Lia	Donny Lia
Sept. 19	New Hampshire 100	New Hampshire Motor Speedway, Loudon, N.H.	Ryan Preece	Ron Silk
Sept. 27	Made In America Whelen 300 +	Martinsville (Va.) Speedway	Ron Silk	Mike Stefanik
Oct. 4	CARQUEST Fall Final	Stafford (Conn.) Motor Speedway	Donny Lia	Donny Lia
Oct. 25	World Series of Speedway Racing pres. by Xtra Mart	Thompson (Conn.) International Speedway	None - rain	Ted Christopher

* Qualifying Format Race + Combined Race With Whelen Southern Modified Tour