



## ATLANTA MOTOR SPEEDWAY PREVIEW

### PAUL MENARD • No. 98 CertainTeed/Menards Ford Fusion



- CertainTeed, a leading North American manufacturer of building products, will be on board the No. 98 Ford for the event at Atlanta Motor Speedway
- Menard has made seven NASCAR Sprint Cup Series starts at the track and has posted two top-15 finishes
- Menard has finished inside the top 20 in every NASCAR Sprint Cup Series event this season

**Menard on Atlanta:** "I like Atlanta. It's wide and fast and it's a great track to race on, but right now I'd look forward to going just about anywhere. Slugger Labbe and all the guys on this Menards Racing team have done a good job preparing these Ford Fusions for these first three races of the year and I'm having fun driving them. When you get to Atlanta, one of the biggest issues is the tires. The track is so hard on the tires that 40 laps into the run they're worn out, and as a driver you have to figure out how to get the most out of the car when the tires are new, but save enough so you can get through the whole run without losing a lot on your competitors in the latter part of the run. It's a difficult balance, but I'm sure Slugger's got a good plan and some good data to use to help to figure things out and get the most out of our car."

**Crew Chief Slugger Labbe's Thoughts on Atlanta:** "Qualifying is later in the day on Friday than it is normally, so getting ourselves ready for that is probably the first order of business in Atlanta. The speeds are really fast at that track, but the tires fall off pretty quickly. You have to be able to find the balance to be able to go well at the start of the run, but keep the tires underneath you at the end of the run as well. That's the challenge. The No. 99 team tire tested at Atlanta and we were able to get some pretty good data and information from that. Plus, Paul's done pretty well there in the past, so we're looking forward to what we think should be another good weekend for this Menards team."

**Labbe's Thoughts on the 2010 Season:** "We've been pretty close with what we need as far as setup goes right off the hauler each week and that's huge because that means that we really only need to fine tune the setups during practice instead of going in and having to make wholesale changes to the car. Practice on Saturdays are far less chaotic when you get things close to where they need to be right off the bat. Our goal for these first couple of races of the season was to build a catalog of what Paul likes and what we need to change in order for us to make the car perform better, and we've been able to do that. The cars are driving the same each week and that makes life easier."

**Chassis History:** Crew chief Slugger Labbe and the No. 98 Menards crew have prepared chassis No. 594 for this weekend's Kobalt Tools 500 at Atlanta Motor Speedway. This chassis was used on several occasions last year, but has been completely rebuilt for 2010.

**Notes:** Menard holds down 17th place in the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series driver point standings and has finished inside the top 18 in each of the three races run thus far. This is the first time in his NASCAR Sprint Cup Series career he has scored three consecutive top-20 finishes.

### Race Information

**Date:** March 7, 2010  
**Race:** Kobalt Tools 500  
**Laps:** 325 Laps/500.5 Miles

**TV Information:** 1 p.m. ET on FOX  
**Radio Information:** 1 p.m. ET on PRN and Sirius/XM  
Satellite Radio

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