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RACE REPORT

PAUL MENARD

DURACELL/MENARDS CHEVROLET

MICHIGAN INT'L SPEEDWAY

AUGUST 21, 2011

Arduous Day in the Irish Hills Yields 26th-place Result for Menard at MIS

Paul Menard started the Duracell/Menards Chevrolet from the 11th position in Sunday's Pure Michigan 400; however, handling issues plagued the No. 27 team, relegating them to a 26th-place finish at Michigan International Speedway. The Slugger Labbe-led team made chassis and air pressure adjustments throughout the 203-lap event in order to neutralize the car's handling around the two-mile race track. Contact with another competitor damaged the left-front fender and resulted in a much-changed balance as the race approached the halfway point. With the handling shifted to the tight-side, Labbe called for air pressure adjustments to the left front and rear tires during a lap-104 pit stop while the field was slowed by the yellow flag for debris. After the adjustments, the sun made its appearance over the Brooklyn, Mich.-based facility, changing the track's condition and resulting in an extremely loose-handling car and Menard fell to 25th. Gambling for track position on a lap-168 pit stop while under caution, Labbe called for a four tires and no adjustments, catapulting the Eau Claire, Wis., native into the 18th spot. The handling remained extremely loose and Menard slipped to the 27th position as he fought to maintain control of his Chevrolet. A lap-196 caution set the stage for a green-white-checkered finish and provided the opportunity for one final attempt at remedying the yellow and black racer. This time, Labbe instructed the No. 27 crew to use spring rubbers with additional chassis and air pressure adjustments to combat the severe loose condition. In the final two laps, Menard gained one position, taking the checkered flag 26th. The result dropped Menard to 18th in the NSCS point standings; but with his Brickyard 400 victory, he remains within striking distance of a Chase for the NASCAR Sprint Cup wild card.

Start – 11

Finish – 26

Laps Led – 0

Points – 18

PAUL MENARD QUOTES:

"The guys did a great job in the pits; we just have some homework to do after today. We made up a little ground on Denny (Hamlin) and the wild card. Instead of focusing on that though, we plan to go to the track each week, focus on the individual races and get the best results we can."

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