

# 27

# PREVIEW

## PAUL MENARD QUAKER STATE/MENARDS CHEVROLET

ATLANTA MOTOR SPEEDWAY

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**This week's Quaker State/Menards Chevrolet under the lights of Atlanta Motor Speedway ...**

Paul Menard will pilot Chassis No. 364 from the Richard Childress Racing NASCAR Sprint Cup Series stable. This No. 27 Chevrolet Impala was a brand new addition to the RCR fleet for the 2011 season and was last seen in competition on track at Indianapolis Motor Speedway where Menard drove it to Victory Lane after starting 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Slightly different colors on the No. 27 Chevrolet Impala in the Peach State ...** The No. 27 Quaker State/Menards Chevrolet will sport a slightly different look this weekend, carrying a special paint scheme. "Quaker State green" and "Menards yellow" will don Menard's Chevrolet Impala as the Sprint Cup Series races under the lights at Atlanta Motor Speedway on Sunday night.

**Menard will battle for \$3 million payout in the Sprint Summer Showdown finale ...** With his win at Indianapolis Motor Speedway, Menard was crowned the first qualifier for the Sprint Summer Showdown presented by HTC EVO 3D. The Summer Showdown puts \$3 million on the line for drivers, their charities and one lucky fan in a six-race competition. The winning drivers between Indianapolis and Bristol became finalists for the Labor Day weekend race at Atlanta Motor Speedway. If one of the eligible drivers wins the Atlanta race, then the driver, the driver's charity and one lucky race fan each collect \$1 million. For more information, please visit [www.sprint.com/speed](http://www.sprint.com/speed). The drivers qualified for the Summer Showdown are Menard, Brad Keselowski, Marcos Ambrose and Kyle Busch and their NSCS entries at AMS will bear special "Sprint yellow" roof numbers and spoilers.

**Back to the beginning for Menard at Atlanta ...** After making two starts in the Sprint Cup Series at Watkins Glen International (2003 and 2005), Menard made his oval track debut in NASCAR's premier series at Atlanta Motor Speedway in March 2006. At that appearance, he started 22<sup>nd</sup> and finished an impressive seventh. In his nine total NSCS starts at Hampton, Ga.-based facility, he has finished eight of his contested races, succumbing to an expired engine in last year's Labor Day weekend event at the 1.54-mile race track. He has completed 97.5 percent of his laps (2,875 of 2,950), leading for two circuits. He has an average starting position of 27.1 and a 22<sup>nd</sup>-place average finishing position. His best start of 19<sup>th</sup> came in September 2010 and his best finish of fifth came in March of that same year, when he and crew chief Slugger Labbe first worked there together. This weekend marks Menard's first visit to AMS under the RCR banner.

**A Loopy Year in Review ...** After 24 races, Menard has an average starting position of 12.4, ranking him seventh of all drivers. He maintains an average running position of 16.5, has made 2,760 green-flag passes (ranked fourth of all drivers), has spent 3,208 laps racing in the top 15 (ranked 17<sup>th</sup> of all drivers), is ranked third in the Loop Data category of Quality Passes. He has also completed 95.7 percent of his laps (6,459 of 6,751).

**2011 Season Statistics:**

<b>Starts:</b> 24	<b>Win:</b> 1	<b>Top fives:</b> 4	<b>Top 10s:</b> 7	<b>Laps led:</b> 81
<b>Best start:</b> 2nd (Pocono Raceway, June)		<b>Best finish:</b> 1st (Indianapolis Motor Speedway, July)		

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**Race Rewind ...** Starting seventh in the 500-lap annual affair under the lights at Bristol, Menard and the No. 27 team were relegated to a 30<sup>th</sup>-place finish following a pit road penalty and a series of wrong-place-at-the-wrong-time events, very typical at the half-mile bullring.

**"I think a night race in general brings a lot of excitement, especially at a high-speed race track like Atlanta (Motor Speedway). I definitely think it's going to be really exciting."**

— Paul Menard

