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PREVIEW

PAUL MENARD SYLVANIA/MENARDS CHEVROLET

BRISTOL MOTOR SPEEDWAY

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This week's Sylvania/Menards Chevrolet under the lights at Bristol ... Paul Menard will pilot Chassis No. 356 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 Kentucky Speedway in July where Menard qualified 10th. An untimely caution during green-flag pit stops and front-end damage during a late restart resulted in a 24th-place finish. This car was also raced this year at Charlotte Motor Speedway where the Eau Claire, Wis., native started 16th and finished 29th in the Coca-Cola 600.

Menard at the "World's Fastest Half Mile" ... In his eight previous starts at Bristol Motor Speedway, a bullring that is notorious for sheet metal carnage, Menard has finished each of his contested races and completed 99.6 percent of his laps (3,994 of 4,009). He has an average starting position of 24.4 and an average finishing position of 20.6. His best start of fourth and his best finish of fifth came in his most recent visit to the Bristol, Tenn.-based facility earlier this season.

A Loopy Year in Review ... After 23 races, Menard has an average starting position of 12.6, higher than eight of the drivers currently in the top 10 in the point standings, and an average finishing position of 17.6. He maintains an average running position of 16.04, has made 2,701 green-flag passes (ranked third of all drivers), has spent 3,173 laps racing in the top 15 (ranked 15th of all drivers), is ranked second in the Loop Data category of Quality Passes. He has also completed 95.4 percent of his laps (5,963 of 6,251).

2011 Season Statistics:

Starts: 23 Win: 1 Top-five finishes: 4 Top-10 finishes: 7 Laps led: 81
Best start: 2nd (Pocono Raceway, June) Best finish: 1st (Indianapolis Motor Speedway, July)

Menard is qualified for the Sprint Summer Showdown ... With his victory 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. Any driver who wins between Indianapolis and Bristol (the first five races) will become a finalist for the Labor Day weekend race in Atlanta (the sixth race). If one of those eligible drivers wins the Atlanta race, then the driver, the driver's charity and one lucky race fan each collect \$1 million. Fans can enter for their shot at the big bucks each week at www.sprint.com/speed.

Menard Ticket Package at BMS ... Bristol Motor Speedway is offering all Menard fans a ticket package which includes a ticket to the NSCS race on Saturday, an autographed Menard hat and an exclusive Q & A session with the him and RCR teammates Jeff Burton and Clint Bowyer in the BMS Hospitality Village at 3:15 p.m. on race day. Fans interested in purchasing the special package, priced at \$125, can do so by calling the BMS ticket office at (866) 415-4158 and ask for the "Paul Menard ticket package."

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Race Rewind ...Menard started from the 11th position in the Pure Michigan 400; however, handling issues plagued the No. 27 team throughout the 203-lap event, relegating them to a 26th-place finish at Michigan International Speedway.

"Uneventful days at Bristol Motor Speedway are good and that was just what that day was (March 2011), uneventful. We started fourth and led some laps. We had a pretty good car that afternoon."

— Paul Menard

