

RACE REPORT

PAUL MENARD

MOEN/MENARDS CHEVROLET

SPRINT SHOWDOWN — CHARLOTTE

MAY 21, 2011



Contact on Restart Dashes All-Star Race Hopes for Menard and the No. 27 Moen/Menards Team

Paul Menard started the No. 27 Moen/Menards Chevrolet from the third position and quickly drove to second in Saturday night's Sprint Showdown at Charlotte Motor Speedway. He was running there when the competition caution was displayed on lap 20, ending the first of two segments. With only 20 laps remaining in the next segment and track position being vitally important, crew chief Slugger Labbe instructed his driver to stay out regardless of who came to pit road. A succession of drivers drove to pit road, some taking four tires while others only took two. Menard and race leader, and eventual winner David Ragan, were two of the drivers who remained on track. When green-flag racing resumed, Menard slipped to third on the restart, but quickly made the pass for second three laps later. An accident on lap 27 brought out the yellow flag. On the restart, the leader approached the green flag at a very slow speed and then suddenly accelerated. As a result, Menard received hard contact from behind that sent the No. 27 Chevrolet Impala sideways. The left front of the car was tagged by another car before the right-rear quarter panel bounced off the outside wall. Menard slipped backwards and the caution was displayed again for another accident on the track. Slugger and he discussed their options and agreed that regardless of the apparent tire rub, the No. 27 needed to remain on track. Only the top-two finishers transferred into the Sprint All-Star Race so it was all-or-nothing in those final 12 laps. Restarting from the seventh position, Menard fought the tire rub but, ultimately, lost four additional spots, finishing 11th.

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Start – 3^d

Finish – 11th

Laps Led – 0

Points – N/A

PAUL MENARD QUOTE:

"It's disappointing because the car was so good; we definitely had the car to beat. It would have been a lot of fun to have made it into the All-Star Race, but the Coca-Cola 600 is the one that counts. I am definitely looking forward to next week."

