

# 27

# RACE REPORT

## PAUL MENARD SYLVANIA/MENARDS CHEVROLET

NEW HAMPSHIRE MOTOR SPEEDWAY

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### Menard Finishes 20<sup>th</sup> at New Hampshire Motor Speedway

Paul Menard drove the No. 27 SYLVANIA/Menards Chevrolet to a 20<sup>th</sup>-place finish in the SYLVANIA 300 at New Hampshire Motor Speedway after battling handling issues and track position throughout the afternoon. After taking the green flag in the 14<sup>th</sup> position on Sunday, Menard slipped to 23<sup>rd</sup> before coming down pit road on lap 58 during the first round of green-flag stops at the "Magic Mile." Crew chief Slugger Labbe called for four tires, fuel and a track bar adjustment to counteract a tight-center and loose-off condition that developed during the initial run. The team raced between 20<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> while making chassis adjustments to the car over the next 115 laps. A two-tire pit stop while under caution on lap 174 catapulted Menard from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup>. During the 300-lap race, the bright yellow Chevrolet was strong at the beginning of a run, but developed a tight condition as the run progressed. Menard drove as high as 15<sup>th</sup> by lap 179 before falling back to 25<sup>th</sup>, unable to maintain track position around the one-mile track as he continued to battle handling issues. A final green-flag visit to pit road for four tires, fuel and an air pressure adjustment on lap 232 allowed the team have enough fuel to reach the checkered flag. Menard drove up to 23<sup>rd</sup> by lap 276, gaining three additional spots as other cars ran out of fuel in the final laps. The 20<sup>th</sup>-place result marks Menards best finish at the Loudon, N.H.-based facility.

Start – 14

Finish – 20

Laps Led – 0

Points – 22

#### PAUL MENARD QUOTES:

"New Hampshire Motor Speedway is a historically tough track for us. I feel like we are making some gains, but it doesn't make it any less frustrating. The Sylvania/Menards team did a great job this weekend, especially with the changing weather conditions. It was overcast all day Friday and Saturday. The pit crew had another good weekend, as well. We'll just keep coming back to Loudon and keep trying to figure it out."

