

# PREVIEW

## PAUL MENARD PEAK/MENARDS CHEVROLET

PHOENIX INT'L RACEWAY

NOVEMBER 13, 2011

# 27

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"I have no idea what it's going to be like when we go back. It took about a half of a day for the track to come finally come in when we were testing. No one really knows what to expect. It's going to be very interesting."  
— Paul Menard

**This week's Peak/Menards Chevrolet at Phoenix International Raceway ...** Paul Menard will pilot chassis No. 328 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 on track at Darlington Raceway in May, where Menard started 18<sup>th</sup> and finished 22<sup>nd</sup>. This racer also saw competition at Las Vegas Motor Speedway (March) where he started 18<sup>th</sup> and finished 12<sup>th</sup> and was utilized in the October test session at PIR.

**Phoenix Tidbits ...** In his nine previous starts at the one-mile raceway, Menard has completed 99.5 percent of his laps (2,861 of 2,875). He has an average starting position of 20.8 and an average finishing position of 24.6, with his best finish of 17<sup>th</sup> coming earlier this year in the March event. His best start at the Avondale, Ariz.-based track came in April 2009 when the Eau Claire, Wis., native rolled off from the seventh position.

**Round One in the Arizona Desert ...** Menard started the No. 27 Chevrolet Impala from the 13<sup>th</sup> position in March's Fresh Fit 500, and was able to finish 17<sup>th</sup> despite battling a tight-handling condition for the majority of the 312-lap event.

**A Loopy Year in Review ...** After 34 races, Menard has an average starting position of 11.7, tying him for **fifth** among of all drivers and tying **third** among those competing full time. He maintains an average running position of 16.671, has made 3,880 green-flag passes (ranked **fourth** of all drivers), has spent 4,506 laps racing in the top 15 (ranked **19th** of all drivers), and is ranked **fourth** in the Loop Data category of Quality Passes (1,936 green-flag passes while running in the Top 15). He has also completed 96.1 percent of his contested laps this season (9,693 of 10,071).

**2011 Season Statistics:**

**Starts:** 34    **Win:** 1    **Top-five finishes:** 4    **Top-10 finishes:** 7    **Laps led:** 81  
**Best start:** 2nd (Pocono, June and Chicagoland)    **Best finish:** 1st (Indianapolis Motor Speedway)

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**Race Rewind ...** One year ago, Menard started the 312-lap event at PIR from the 19th position. He reported to crew chief Slugger Labbe that his machine was tight through the center of the corners, which was affecting his drive off. Despite an array of air pressure and chassis adjustments made during each visit to pit road, when the checkered flag flew, Menard was in 29th place.

**In the Rearview Mirror: Texas ...** Menard and the Quaker State/Menards team started from the fourth position and brought the No. 27 Chevrolet Impala home with a top-15 result in Sunday's AAA Texas 500, taking every opportunity to adjust the car's handling as the track's conditions changed with incoming cloud cover and the dipping sun at Texas Motor Speedway.

