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PREVIEW

PAUL MENARD ZECOL/MENARDS CHEVROLET

CHICAGOLAND SPEEDWAY

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This week's Zecol/Menards Chevrolet at Chicagoland Speedway ... Paul Menard will pilot Chassis No. 326 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 at Michigan International Speedway (August) where Menard started 11th and finished 26th. This racer also saw time at Bristol Motor Speedway (March) where he started fourth and finished fifth, The Sprint Showdown (May) where he started third and was running second when he was hit on the re-start, relegating him to an 11th-place finish and at Michigan International Speedway in June, where Menard started ninth and finished fourth.

Sweet home, Chicago ... Only six hours from his hometown of Eau Claire, Wis., Chicagoland Speedway is the closest thing to a "home track" that Menard has on the NSCS schedule. In his four previous starts at Chicagoland, he has completed 83.9 percent of his laps (892 of 1,068). He has completed three of his four contested events, with the lone exception being in 2009 when it appeared Menard was on his way to a top-10 finish, but contact with another competitor cut his tire and sent him hard into the wall. The damage was irreparable, resulting in a 35th-place finish. He has an average starting position of 19.8 and an average finishing position of 28.2 with his best finish of 10th coming in last year's July appearance at the 1.5-mile oval. His best start came in the same visit to the Joliet, Ill.-based facility, when he took the green flag in the ninth position.

A Loopy Year in Review ... After 26 races, Menard has an average starting position of 12.8, ranking him eighth of all drivers. He maintains an average running position of 12.8, has made 2,915 green-flag passes (ranked fourth of all drivers), has spent 3,321 laps racing in the top 15 (ranked 19th of all drivers), is ranked third in the Loop Data category of Quality Passes (1524 green-flag passes while running in the Top 15). He has also completed 95 percent of his laps (7,103 of 7,476).

2011 Season Statistics:

Starts: 26 **Win:** 1 **Top fives:** 4 **Top 10s:** 7 **Laps led:** 81
Best start: 2nd (Pocono Raceway, June) **Best finish:** 1st (Indianapolis Motor Speedway, July)

About Zecol ... Zecol offers the most innovative automotive chemical line in the industry. Their unique product mix offers competitively priced, high quality additives, cleaners and functional fluids along with winter commodities and bulk sizes to meet the needs of the professional mechanic and retail consumer. For more information, visit www.twincoromax.com/zecol.htm.

Race Rewind ... After starting from the 15th position, Paul Menard's Chase for the NASCAR Sprint Cup hopes were dashed when contact with a competitor forced the No. 27 Chevrolet into the outside wall. The Moen/Menards team repaired the heavily damaged car and returned to finish 34th in the Wonderful Pistachios 400 at Richmond International Raceway.

Double Duty Weekend ... In addition to his driving duties with RCR's No. 27 team, Menard will drive Kevin Harvick Incorporated's No. 33 Menards Chevrolet in Saturday's 300-mile NASCAR Nationwide Series race at Chicagoland. The race will air live on ESPN beginning at 3:30 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time and will be broadcast live on MRN Radio and Sirius Satellite Radio.



"We've run decent at Chicagoland (Speedway) in the past. The intermediate tracks and mile and a half tracks have historically been our strong suit. This will be our first visit to Chicagoland as a team (the No. 27 team), but I do think we'll run well there."
— Paul Menard