

RACE REPORT

PAUL MENARD

SERTA/MENARDS CHEVROLET

AUTO CLUB SPEEDWAY

MARCH 27, 2011



Menard and the No. 27 Serta/Menards Team Leave the Inland Empire with a 16th-Place Finish

Coming off of their fifth-place finish last weekend at Bristol, Paul Menard and the No. 27 Serta/Menards team entered the weekend at Auto Club Speedway with high expectations; however, handling issues plagued the No. 27 Chevrolet early in the 200-lap race and Menard quickly slipped backwards from his 15th-place starting position. The Slugger Labbe-led team made adjustments during each pit stop in order to neutralize the tight condition that Menard was battling. Labbe called for a two-tire pit stop on lap 75, gaining Menard valuable track position. By lap 120, Menard moved the Serta/Menards Impala inside of the top 10, where he remained until the caution flag was displayed on lap 170. He hit pit road for four new tires, Sunoco E15 fuel and an additional air pressure adjustment. On the restart, Menard was shuffled from ninth back to 16th, and reported to the team that the car's handling had turned drastically tight once again. The final caution of the day fell on lap 185 and Menard brought the No. 27 Chevrolet to pit road for four tires with air pressure changes. Buried deep in the field in the 21st position for the restart on lap 191, Menard battled back to the 16th position, where he took the checkers and recorded his best finish at the two-mile speedway.

Start – 15th

Finish – 16th

Laps Led – 0

Points – 7th

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PAUL MENARD QUOTE:

“The Serta/Menards team had a really good day in the pits; we just struggled on those last two restarts today. We expected a much better finish than 16th, especially after running in the top 10. As we do after each weekend, we’ll take a look at things, go over our notes and learn from it. We have a lot of racing ahead of us, and now, we’ll turn our focus to next week’s race at Martinsville (Speedway). These guys work really hard, and I have the utmost confidence in them. We all know what we are capable of and set high expectations for ourselves.”

