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PREVIEW

PAUL MENARD NIBCO/MENARDS CHEVROLET

INDIANAPOLIS MOTOR SPEEDWAY

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This Week's Nibco/Menards Chevrolet at the Brickyard ... Paul Menard will pilot Chassis No. 364 from the Richard Childress Racing NASCAR Sprint Cup Series stable. This No. 27 Chevrolet Impala is a brand new addition to the RCR fleet for the 2011 season and will make its first paces this weekend at Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

Menards is a familiar sight at IMS ... Entries fielded by Team Menard, owned by Menards founder and owner, John Menard, were fixtures at the storied Indianapolis Motor Speedway long before NASCAR made its first visit to the Brickyard in 1994. The first Menards open-wheel entry that qualified for the Indianapolis 500 was driven by another Eau Claire, Wis., native, Herm Johnson, in 1982, earning a ninth-place finish. Johnson followed up his rookie performance with another top 10 in 1984. Another notable performance came in 1995 and 1996 when Scott Brayton claimed the pole position for the famous race. Other well-known wheel men who drove for Team Menard at Indy include: Nelson Piquet, Al Unser, Eddie Cheever, Arie Luyendyk, and Buddy Lazier. With the CART-Indy Racing League split in 1996, Team Menard joined the IRL full time, winning back-to-back championships with Tony Stewart in 1996 and 1997. Greg Ray brought the team their third championship title in 1999. In 2004, the Team Menard merged with Panther Racing, with Menard eventually withdrawing from motorsports as team owner. Present day finds the recognizable neon yellow paint scheme as a sponsor of entries in the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series (No. 27 Chevrolet Impala), Nationwide Series (No. 33 Chevrolet Impala), and Camping World Truck Series (No. 88 Chevrolet Silverado), and the No. 44 entry in the ARCA Racing Series, all of which are racing at IMS or Lucas Oil Raceway this weekend!

By the numbers at Indy ... In his four previous starts at the Speedway, Ind.-based track, Menard has finished each of his contested races and completed 93.1 percent of his laps (596 of 640). He has an average starting position of 29.8 and a 26th-place average finishing position. He claimed both his best start of 26th and his best finish of 14th on his last visit to the famed 2.5-mile flat oval (July 2010).

A Loopy Year in Review ... After 19 races, the Eau Claire, Wisc., native has an average running position of 15.9, ranking him 15th in the NSCS, has made the fourth-highest number of green-flag passes (2,320), has spent 50.9 percent of his contested laps in the top 15 and is ranked second in quality passes. He has also completed 95 percent of his laps (5,315 of 5,596).

2011 Season Statistics:	Starts: 19	Top-five finishes: 3	Top-10 finishes: 5	Laps led: 60
	Best start: 2nd (Pocono Raceway, June)		Average start: 11.8	
	Best finish: 4th (Michigan International Speedway, June)		Average finish: 17.7	

The No. 27 team boasts some proud "Hoosiers" ... Several members of the No. 27 Nibco/Menards team call the "Hoosier State" their home. Spotter Stevie Reeves grew up only blocks from IMS' Turn Three in Speedway, Ind, while interior specialist Brad Tunny hails from Holton, Ind., a mere hour and a half south-east from Indianapolis.

About Nibco® - Ahead of the Flow® ... With more than 105 years of experience, NIBCO products are used in residential, commercial construction, industrial and irrigation markets, worldwide. Products range from valves, ball valves, actuators, plastic and metal fittings, press-to-connect copper fittings, PEX piping systems, industrial plastics, to pipe hangers and support. NIBCO is headquartered in Elkhart, Ind., and operates 12 manufacturing plants located throughout the United States, Mexico and Poland. For more information on NIBCO, please visit www.NIBCO.com.



"I love Indianapolis and I really look forward to going there every year. I was eight years old the first time I ever went there, and it was the coolest experience I've ever been through. I've been a huge fan of Indianapolis ever since." — Paul Menard