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PREVIEW

PAUL MENARD SYLVANIA/MENARDS CHEVROLET

NEW HAMPSHIRE MOTOR SPEEDWAY

SEPT. 25, 2011

This week's SYLVANIA/Menards Chevrolet at New Hampshire Motor Speedway ... Paul Menard will pilot Chassis No. 341 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 New Hampshire Motor Speedway (July) where Menard started ninth and finished 24th.

Lightning McQueen On-board the No. 27 SYLVANIA/Menards Machine ... Menard will have a passenger riding with him on the rear quarter-panels of the No. 27 Chevrolet Impala – Lightning McQueen! McQueen is the main character featured in the Pixar-produced Cars and Cars 2 movies. SYLVANIA is a Strategic Alliance Partner of Disney and is collaborating with Disney Home entertainment Division in the promotion of the DVD and Blu-ray release of Cars 2 on November 1, 2011.

By the numbers at NHMS ... In his nine previous starts at the Loudon, N.H.-based track, Menard has finished each of his contested races and completed 98.5 percent of his laps (2,620 of 2,659). He has a 25th-place average starting position and an average finishing position of 28.6. He had his best start of eighth in last September's visit to the one-mile flat oval, while his best finish of 21st was claimed in the September 2008 event.

A Loopy Year in Review ... After 27 races, Menard has an average starting position of 12.4, ranking him eighth among of all drivers. He maintains an average running position of 16.75, has made 2,959 green-flag passes (ranked fourth of all drivers), has spent 3,587 laps racing in the top 15 (ranked 17th of all drivers), is ranked third in the Loop Data category of Quality Passes (1561 green-flag passes while running in the Top 15). He has also completed 95.2 percent of his laps (7,370 of 7,743).

2011 Season Statistics:

Starts: 27 **Win:** 1 **Top-five finishes:** 4 **Top-10 finishes:** 7 **Laps led:** 81
Best start: 2nd (Pocono Raceway, June & Chicagoland Speedway)
Best finish: 1st (Indianapolis Motor Speedway)

Richard "Slugger" Labbe to pull double duty at NHMS ... Following Saturday's final NSCS practice session at NHMS, No. 27 crew chief Slugger Labbe will don his work gloves and to help good friend and fellow NSCS crew chief Kevin "Bono" Manion with his NASCAR Whelen Modified team as they look to return the No. 77 Menards entry to Victory Lane with Ryan Newman in the New Hampshire 100. In 2010, the team claimed two pole positions and won all three of the NWMT events that they entered, including a sweep of the two races held at NHMS. The team returned to NHMS in July and claimed the victory, but was disqualified following post-race inspection. They also entered the NWMT event at Bristol Motor Speedway in August where they defended their title, starting fourth and finishing first. Qualifying for the NWMT event is scheduled for Thursday, September 22 at 4:45 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time with the 100-lap race kicking off at 12:45 p.m. on Saturday, September 24.

Returning to their New England Roots ... As NASCAR's premier series heads to New Hampshire, a few members of the No. 27 Richmond/Menards team will be as close to home as their travels take them. Crew chief Richard "Slugger" Labbe hails from Saco, Maine and front tire-changer Erik Pringle calls Sharon, Vt. his hometown.

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Back in the Saddle Again ... After inclement weather postponed Sunday's NASCAR Sprint Cup Series race to Monday afternoon, Menard and the No. 27 team started the Geico 400 second and were a mainstay in the top 10, spending 266 out of 277 laps in the top 15, but a fuel mileage gamble left them one lap shy of the fuel needed to take the checkered flag under full power, forcing the team to coast to a 20th-place finish at Chicagoland Speedway.

"New Hampshire Motor Speedway is one of those tracks that we've gone to and felt pretty good about our car during practice, we qualify in the top 10, and then we just struggle really bad during the race. We've done a little short-track testing this year to try and help that. Hopefully the testing pays off. We tested at the Milwaukee Mile, which is as close to Loudon as you're going to get."

— Paul Menard

