

27

RACE REPORT

PAUL MENARD

RICHMOND/MENARDS CHEVROLET

MARTINSVILLE SPEEDWAY

OCTOBER 30, 2011

Menard Finishes 24th in Attrition-Filled Martinsville Race

Richard Childress Racing's Paul Menard and the No. 27 Richmond/Menards team escaped Sunday afternoon's action-packed short track race at Martinsville Speedway with a top-25 finish. Menard started the 500-lap race from the 21st position after rain throughout the early portions of the weekend caused NASCAR officials to scratch Saturday's qualifying session and set the field according to the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series owners point standings. Menard took the green flag in front of an estimated 62,000 people and quickly noted to crew chief Slugger Labbe the No. 27 Chevrolet had a tight-handling condition. With the race slowed by 18 cautions for 108 laps, there were plenty of opportunities to make chassis adjustments during routine pit stops and by the event's midpoint, handling had improved on the No. 27 machine. Menard was scored 15th in the running order and racing for position with Kurt Busch when the two made contact on lap 425, sending the No. 22 machine spinning and leaving Menard's yellow No. 27 racer with significant right-side damage. Menard immediately brought his Chevrolet to pit road so that the RCR team could evaluate the damage. A lengthy pit stop ensued, with the team adding door foam to the right side of the Chevrolet along with four Goodyear tires and fuel. Menard lost three laps to the race leaders during the extended pit stop and restarted in the 27th position when green-flag racing resumed on lap 432. The 2011 Brickyard 400 winner spent the remainder of the race working to secure track position and ultimately earned a 24th-place result.

Twitter:
 @RCR27PMenard
 @RCRRacing

Facebook:
 Facebook.com/
 PaulMenard27

Start – 21

Finish – 24

Laps Led – 0

Points – 21

PAUL MENARD QUOTE:

"I don't know what to say. That was just dumb racing out there today. I think we would have been okay until that incident with the No. 22. It's just difficult to recover from three laps down, especially that close to the end of the race."

