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PREVIEW

PAUL MENARD PITTSBURGH PAINTS/MENARDS CHEVROLET

MICHIGAN INT'L SPEEDWAY

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This Week's Pittsburg Paints/Menards Chevrolet at Michigan International 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 on track at Bristol Motor Speedway where Menard brought home a fifth-place result after starting from the fourth position. This car also saw paces this year during the non-points Sprint Showdown at Charlotte Motor Speedway where Menard started third and finished 11th.

By the Numbers in the Irish Hills ... In nine career NSCS starts at the two-mile oval, Menard has finished each of his contested races and completed 97.5 percent of his laps (1,761 of 1,806), leading for five circuits. He has an average starting position of 31st and an average finishing position of 25.1, with his best finish of 11th coming in the June 2008 event. His recorded his best start during his last visit to the Brooklyn, Mich.-based facility when he took the green flag in the 10th position (August 2010). He also owns one top-five and four top-10 finishes in five NASCAR Nationwide Series starts at MIS.

A Loopy Year in Review ... After 14 races, the Eau Claire, Wisc., native maintains an average running position of 16.58, has made 1,779 green-flag passes, has spent 2,139 laps racing in the top 15 and is ranked third in Quality Passes. He has also completed 93.8 percent of his laps (4,268 of 4,548).

2011 Season Statistics:

Starts: 12	Top-five finishes: 2	Top-10 finishes: 3	Laps led: 53
Best start: 4th (Bristol Motor Speedway, March)	Average start: 14.4		
Best finish: 5th (Bristol, March; Texas, April)	Average finish: 18.8		

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Race Rewind ... Last weekend, Menard and the Pittsburgh Paints/Menards team recorded their season-best start of second when the NSCS visited Pocono Raceway. A pit road penalty put the No. 27 Chevrolet Impala deep in the field on lap 50. With strategic pit calls by crew chief Slugger Labbe and determined driving by Menard, the No. 27 team brought home a 14th-place finish.

"It's referred to as a 'driver's track because you can move all over the place at MIS. You can run from the top to bottom of the racetrack; you're not dependent on certain lines. Instead, you can move around and see where your car works the best.."

— Paul Menard

