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PREVIEW

PAUL MENARD

QUAKER STATE/MENARDS CHEVROLET

TEXAS MOTOR SPEEDWAY

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This week's Quaker State/Menards Chevrolet at Texas Motor Speedway ... Paul Menard will pilot chassis No. 379 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 on track at Kansas Speedway in October, where Menard started sixth and finished 12th.

Slightly different colors on the Quaker State/Menards Chevrolet in the Lone Star State ... The No. 27 Quaker State/Menards Chevrolet will sport a slightly different look this weekend, carrying a special paint scheme. "Quaker State green" and "Menards yellow" will don the Chevrolet Impala as the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series rolls into Texas.

Texas Tidbits ...

- Menard will make his 181st NSCS start this weekend at Texas Motor Speedway.
- In his 10 previous starts at TMS, Menard has one top-five and two top-10 finishes, completing 94.6 percent of his laps (3,169 of 3,350) and leading for one circuit.
- He has an average starting position of 22nd and an average finishing position of 21.7, with his best finish of fifth coming in his most recent visit to the 1.5-mile facility (April 2011).
- Menard logged his best start of fifth in the April 2009 NSCS event at TMS.

Round One at TMS in 2011 ... Menard started the No. 27 Quaker State/Menards Chevrolet 19th in April's Saturday night NASCAR Sprint Cup Series event under the lights of Texas Motor Speedway. Within 25 laps, Menard moved into the top 15 and never looked back. He entered the top 10 shortly after the halfway point. The car's handling got better and better as the race progressed, and Menard took the checkers in the fifth position.

A Loopy Year in Review ... After 33 races, Menard has an average starting position of 11.9, ranking him fifth among of all drivers and fourth among those competing full time. He maintains an average running position of 16.662, has made 3,738 green-flag passes (ranked fourth of all drivers), has spent 4,380 laps racing in the top 15 (ranked 18th of all drivers), and is ranked fourth in the Loop Data category of Quality Passes (1,902 green-flag passes while running in the Top 15). He has also completed 96.1 percent of his contested laps this season (9,359 of 9,737).

2011 Season Statistics:

Starts: 33 **Win:** 1 **Top-five finishes:** 4 **Top-10 finishes:** 7 **Laps led:** 81
Best start: 2nd (Pocono, June and Chicagoland) **Best finish:** 1st (Indianapolis Motor Speedway)

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Race Rewind ... One year ago, Menard recorded his first top-10 finish at TMS after starting from the 12th position. Menard steadily held track position in the top 10 throughout the event's first 100 laps until his machine became loose as shade fell over the track's surface. The Slugger Labbe-led crew took every opportunity to make adjustments to the car to keep up with the changing track conditions. Their efforts and Menard's steady drive resulted in a 10th-place finish.

In the Rearview Mirror: Martinsville Speedway ... Despite a starting position of 21st determined by owners point standings due to inclement weather, Menard and the No. 27 team rallied back from on-track damage and escaped Sunday afternoon's action-packed short track race at Martinsville Speedway with a top-25 finish.



"Texas (Motor Speedway) is a track that is getting pretty old. It still has a lot of speed in it though. As it gets older, it builds more character and changes a little bit more every time we go back." — Paul Menard