

27

RACE REPORT

PAUL MENARD NIBCO/MENARDS CHEVROLET

INDIANAPOLIS MOTOR SPEEDWAY

JULY 31, 2011

Menard and No. 27 Nibco/Menards Team Make History with Win in Famed Brickyard 400

After starting from the 15th position in the Brickyard 400, the Richard Childress Racing driver went to work, remaining in and around the top 15 until a tire got loose during a lap-51 pit stop and he was assessed a penalty that sent him to the end of the longest line on the ensuing restart. Never giving up, Menard worked his way to the front, leading lap 83 before coming in for service as the field cycled through green-flag pit stops. The Slugger Labbe-led team performed flawlessly, changing four tires and making chassis adjustments to combat the loose-off and tight in the center conditions, and packing the Chevrolet Impala full of Sunoco fuel. Buried in the back of the field, Labbe made the call to stay out during the lap-94 caution period for debris. With most cars behind the No. 27 Chevrolet only taking two tires, Labbe was confident that Menard could remain up front. Restarting from the cat bird seat, he kept the Nibco/Menards Chevrolet in the top five until the next caution period on lap 114. On lap 123, Menard brought the No. 27 Impala to pit road for two tires and fuel, and with one lap to go before the restart, Labbe called him to pit road for a final visit to top off the tank on lap 125. Menard restarted 16th and as the field cycled through green-flag pit stops, he remained on the track and took the lead with 15 laps remaining in the 160-lap event. Carefully conserving fuel, the 30-year-old driver forfeited the top spot on lap 151, but when Labbe gave him the go ahead to make the charge, Menard regained the lead and took the checkered flag to claim his first career NSCS victory.

Twitter:
[@RCR27PMenard](https://twitter.com/RCR27PMenard)
[@RCRRacing](https://twitter.com/RCRRacing)

Facebook:
[Facebook.com/
PaulMenard27](https://www.facebook.com/PaulMenard27)

Start – 15th

Finish – 1st

Laps Led – 21

Points – 14th

PAUL MENARD QUOTE:

"I'm just running through a lot of emotions right now. You know, I've been coming here (to Indianapolis Motor Speedway) since I was a kid and my Dad has been trying to win here for 35 years, so this is for my Dad. Slugger Labbe (crew chief) and all of these guys just do a hell of a job. I can't believe we won Indy. This is the one I wanted to win. My family, my Dad has had IndyCars here since the late 70s, 35 years or so. For 35 years he's been trying, so giving him his first win here after all those years of trying is pretty special. I can't wait to get out there and kiss the bricks. We're the inaugural Sprint Summer Shootout winner, too, which is cool. Man, its Indy!"

