



DAYTONA 500 RACE REPORT

PAUL MENARD • No. 98 Peak/Menards Ford Fusion

- Paul Menard started the Daytona 500 in the 32nd position
- After a solid showing for the first 206 laps, Menard was able to pick up nine spots in the final two laps
- Menard leads the RPM pack in the point standings following the Daytona event

Race Summary: Paul Menard started the Daytona 500 in the 32nd position and maneuvered his Peak/Menards Ford Fusion into the top 25 within 10 laps of the green flag. Menard and crew chief Richard "Slugger" Labbe worked through a tight handling condition during the first half of the race before track conditions began to change and the chassis adjustments the team had made during pit stops eventually made the handling more to Menard's liking.

Menard did a nice job of remaining patient and working with the draft. An accident directly in front of the Menards Ford resulted in some tense moments in the No. 98 pit as Menard was forced to take evasive action and drive through the infield grass to avoid the melee. A yellow flag on Lap 204 resulted in the second attempt at a green-white-checked finish and it quickly became obvious that Menard had saved his best for last. Holding down the 22nd spot on the final restart, Menard made all the right moves in the final two laps and was able to pick up nine positions to finish the first event of the 2010 NASCAR Sprint Cup Series campaign in an impressive 13th place.

Menard on Daytona: "It was a solid day. When the sun was out we weren't as good as we were when it started to go down. The track got a little more grip and that's what our Ford Fusion needed. It was a long day and you think about a 500-mile race and it all comes down to two laps at the end. It was make or break at that point. I just had a good restart and hooked up with the No. 17. He made a couple of holes on the outside and I just followed him through and passed quite a few cars."

Next Race...

Date: Feb. 21, 2010

Race: Auto Club 500

Laps: 250 Laps/500 Miles

TV Information: 3 p.m. ET on FOX

Radio Information: 3 p.m. ET on MRN and Sirius/XM
Satellite Radio

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