



AUTO CLUB 500 RACE REPORT

PAUL MENARD • No. 98 Energizer/Menards Ford Fusion



- The No. 98 team was the highest finishing RPM team for the second consecutive week
- Menard posted his second consecutive finish inside the top 18 Sunday at Auto Club Speedway
- Menard holds down 18th-place in the NASCAR Sprint Cup driver point standings

Race Summary: Paul Menard started the Auto Club 500 in 36th place and worked his way into the 30th position by Lap three of the 250-lap event. Though Menard communicated to his crew that the car was handling loose off the exit of the corners early in the event, as the race wore on and track conditions changed, crew chief Slugger Labbe spent most of the day working through a tight condition with the Energizer/Menards Ford Fusion. The No. 98 pit crew was lightning fast on pit road all day and picked up six positions during a Lap 95 pit stop.

Menard held down 23rd place at the halfway point of the race and never looked back. Battling hard for position in each of the last 50 laps, Menard took the checkered flag in 18th place. The No. 98 team's top-20 finish was the second of the season. For the second consecutive race, the Menard's Ford led the Richard Petty Motorsports contingent. Menard stands 18th in the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series driver point standings, 98 markers outside of the top spot.

Menard on Fontana: "We just kept chipping away at it, really. We couldn't seem to get going on restarts and that hurt us in the end. We were really good on long runs and just kept working on it. Our Menards Ford Fusion bounced between tight and loose and the car was close enough where we could take little changes and go either way, so it was really finicky, but we had really good speed on old tires."

Next Race

Date: Feb. 28, 2010

Race: Shelby American

Venue: Las Vegas Motor Speedway

Laps: 267 Laps/400.5 Miles

TV Information: 3 p.m. ET on FOX

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

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