



**RACE REPORT:
No. 98 RICHMOND / MENARDS FORD FUSION**

**ABLE BODY LABOR 200
One-Mile Phoenix International Raceway
Avondale, Ariz.
Saturday, November 14, 2009**

RACE SUMMARY

Paul Menard

Started: 7th

Finished: 30th

Top Three

1. Carl Edwards, Ford
2. Kevin Harvick, Chevrolet
3. Reed Sorenson, Toyota

Complete Race Results:

<http://www.yatesracing.com/index.php?q=/articles/recaps98>

POINTS SUMMARY

Paul Menard

Race Total: 73 points

Season Total: 1,783 points, Ranked 36th

SEASON SUMMARY

Paul Menard

Starts	Wins	Top Fives	Top 10s	Poles
15	0	1	4	0

No. 98 RICHMOND / MENARDS FORD FUSION RECAP:

MENARD'S RUN IN NATIONWIDE RACE AT PHOENIX CUT SHORT AFTER MID-RACE ACCIDENT

AVONDALE, Ariz. (November 13, 2009) – Yates Racing driver Paul Menard started this afternoon's Able Body Labor 200 from the seventh position at Phoenix International Raceway. After maintaining a top-15 foothold, the No. 98 Richmond / Menards Ford Fusion was caught up in a midrace accident that left Menard with a 30th-place finish at the one-mile speedway.

After posting top-10 practice times and then qualifying seventh for the 200-lap race Phoenix International Raceway, the No. 98 Richmond / Menards team knew they had a strong car. Pole winner Denny Hamlin led the 43-car field to the green flag.

During the first run, Menard noted the car was a "bit snug in the center and a little tight back to the gas," but maintained the car had a lot of power and with a few adjustments could work his way back through the field. After an early caution flag on lap eight, the field remained under green until lap 77, just two laps following the first pit stop for the No. 98 team.

Menard came down pit road on lap 75 for fresh tires, fuel and a track bar adjustment to help with the handling of his No. 98 Richmond / Menards Ford Fusion. However, just one lap later, the caution flag was displayed; leaving the No. 98 team down two laps to the leader. After staying out during the first round of pit stops, Menard was given the wave around and was scored just one lap down to the field.

After gaining back lost positions during the ensuing run, Menard was clipped by the No. 01 car coming out of turn three and four and was sent spinning across the race track. Menard made hard contact with the outside retaining wall. Menard was seen and released from the infield care center and went back to the garage to inspect the damage. The team determined the damage was too much to return to the track. After 95 laps, the No. 98 Richmond / Menards team was left with a 30th-place finish.

"I don't know if we cut down a tire after contact with the 01, or if I just lost it off the apron," said Menard following the wreck. "I think we made contact with the 01, which could have cut down our tire and sent us into the wall. Either way, the No. 98 Richmond / Menards team did a great job this afternoon, and I thought we had a much stronger car than where we are going to finish. Hopefully we can go to Homestead next weekend with a little better luck."

Menard will compete in the season finale Nationwide Series race next weekend at Homestead-Miami Speedway. To date, the No. 98 Richmond / Menards team has posted one top-five, four top-10s and 11 top-15 finishes in 15 starts.

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ABOUT RICHMOND:

Richmond is a high quality brand that offers retail shoppers, do-it-yourselfers, and professional contractors a wide variety of award-winning water heating products. The Richmond water heating line features the industry's first Energy Star™ qualified integrated air-source heat pump

water heater that delivers more than twice the energy efficiency of a standard electric storage water heater. Other innovative Richmond products include highly efficient tankless water heaters; low emission gas storage water heaters; and America's most advanced non-metallic, longest lasting, light weight electric storage water heater featuring a watertight Lifetime warranty. Many Richmond products are Energy Star certified and may be eligible for Federal Tax Credits and local utility rebates. For over 50 years, the Richmond brand has been known for exceptional reliability, excellent value, and trusted after-sale support. Richmond water heaters are available at all Menards Home Centers.