



MICRA CUP

MAGAZINE



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RACES 1 AND 2

CANADIAN TIRE MOTORSPORT PARK
MAY 18, 19, 20

**DRIVERS, START YOUR
MICRA ENGINES!**

**ROUND
1**



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Mobil 1

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OLIVIER BÉDARD AND KEVIN KING SHARE VICTORIES AT THE OPENING WEEKEND OF THE 2018 NISSAN MICRA CUP

– Two highly contested races were held in front of thousands of spectators at Canadian Tire Motorsport Park –

The fourth-annual Nissan Micra Cup officially launched its 2018 season, this past weekend at Canadian Tire Motorsport Park, northeast of Toronto, Ontario. Despite Mother Nature forcing the drivers and spectators to manage some extreme weather conditions, it did not stop the Nissan Micra Cup from presenting two hotly contested events, won by two-time champion Olivier Bédard, (2015, 2017) on Saturday and by Kevin King on Sunday.

Friday's sunny qualifying session set the tone for the weekend, when the top five drivers finished within three-tenths of a second. Olivier Bédard was the fastest qualifier, ahead of Normand Boyer, the reigning Senior Class champion, followed by Kevin King, Fadi Mourad and Valérie Limoges.

On Saturday, a very different scene awaited Nissan Micra Cup fans at Canadian Tire Motorsport Park. Despite a mix of hot sun, rain and dense fog throughout the day, drivers forged on with the first race of the season.

Olivier Bédard set the tone from the start, on his way to an indisputable victory. There were several battles behind him, most notably, the duel between Normand Boyer and Kevin King for second place. Boyer eventually overtook King, who finished third last season.

Novice champion Jake Exton earned a fourth-place finish after a close fight with Peter Dyck, the top finishing Ontario driver. Frédéric Bernier, Michael Habrich, Edward Wong, American Mike Ogren and Austin Riley, rounded out the Top 10.

With the sun back out and after several fan activities, including autograph sessions and a parade lap for Nissan Micra and Z owners, the second race of the weekend and of the 2018 season once again saw Olivier Bédard and novice Mourad share the start line.

As soon as the race began, King, Bédard, Limoges, Boyer and Mourad exchanged positions in one of the best battles the series has ever seen. The race concluded in this order, after contact between Edward Wong and Peter Dyck forced a neutralization in the last five minutes of competition. Jake Exton, Frédéric Bernier, Mike Ogren, Austin Riley and Sylvain Ouellet rounded out the top-10.

In the drivers' championship, Olivier Bédard leads ahead of Kevin King and Normand Boyer, who is also in top spot of the Senior Class standings. With his fifth-place overall finish on Sunday, Fadi Mourad is the highest-ranking novice.

The two races, which aired live on [Facebook](#), are available for replay on the [Micra Cup TV YouTube channel](#), where all the weekend's interviews by Antoine Joubert can also be found.



THE WORLD OF THE NISSAN MICRA CUP



THE PARADE OF THE NISSAN MICRA AND Z...

After a successful year hosting Nissan Micra and Z owners, Nissan Canada renewed the invitation to drivers again this year, allowing owners to attend the races for free to encourage the racers. Gathered in an exclusive zone in the paddocks, more than 100 owners paraded around the track for a lap on Sunday morning. The fans saw street Micras – led by a 1987 original model – as well as around thirty Nissan Zs, from the 240Z to the 370Z.



MATT HUGHES: AN OLYMPIC ATHLETE IN THE PADDOCKS... AND ON THE TRACK!

An Olympic athlete was welcomed into the Nissan Micra Cup family this weekend at Canadian Tire Motorsport Park. Gold medalist at the 2015 Pan American Games in the 3000m steeplechase and Oshawa, Ontario native, Matt Hugues enjoyed driving the racing show car in Sunday's parade. Hughes is also well-known for his 10th place finish in the Rio Olympic Games and his 4th place finishes in the 2014 and 2018 Commonwealth Games.



MICRA CUP TV, FOLLOW THE MICRA CUP WORLDWIDE!

A fantastic new addition this year is the debut of Micra Cup TV, which allows off-site fans to follow the races live and enjoy the atmosphere of the Nissan Micra Cup. This new segment is hosted live on the series' Facebook page and YouTube channel every race day, by well-known Quebec auto journalist, Antoine Joubert.

NEXT RACE: THE KYLE NASH MEMORIAL AT CALABOGIE

The next event will be held in two weeks, from June 2-3, during the Kyle Nash Memorial at Calabogie Motorsports Park, south-west of Ottawa. It will be a Nissan Micra Cup homecoming for the Calabogie track, which hosted the series' 2016 opening round. Saturday's qualifying session and race will take place on the small track, while Sunday's action will be on the 5.5 km track, the longest in Canada.



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2... 3 QUESTIONS FOR... **JACQUES DESHAIES**

Promoter and founder of the Nissan Micra Cup and JD Promotions & Competition, Jacques Deshaies, discusses the start of the 2018 season...

Jacques, 2015, 2016 and 2017 were fabulous seasons for the Nissan Micra Cup. Some drivers have been there from the start and others have joined along the way. Are you sad to see drivers leave or do you think it is good to have new talent join?

After three years, it is normal to have some

turnover, with old drivers leaving and new ones arriving. I think that the shift is positive. Of course, it is difficult to see some of the drivers that I liked leave the series, but I am very proud to see that the Micra Cup helped their careers evolve. For example, I am thrilled that Stefan Rzadzinski, who was part of the Nissan Micra Cup for 3 years, will be driving in the Porsche GT3 Cup. It demonstrates how the series showcases and develops talent, helping the drivers gain visibility and giving them the chance to be discovered by teams in a higher series.

I am also excited to see new drivers debut in the series, as I think it will tighten the competition level in this year's events. Of course, the experienced drivers will have an edge on the newcomers at the beginning of the season, but I am confident that the gap will close quickly.

Debuting at Calabogie, Micra Cup races will now last for 40-minutes. Why did you choose to lengthen the races by 10-minutes?

Our main goal through the Nissan Micra Cup is for the drivers to have fun, and we realized that the more time that drivers were on the track, the more fun they were having! Our fans are also looking forward to 10 more minutes of show time; we wanted to give more value to the drivers and to the public, for the same price.

In addition, by lengthening the races, we reduce the impact of a caution when a race incident occurs, making the races fairer. The Victoria Day Speedfest schedule was too packed for us to make the change this weekend, so we are looking forward to its debut in Calabogie.

At the start the fourth season, the series is still very popular and continuing to gain new followers. How do you explain the Nissan Micra Cup's success?

It is very simple: low costs and Nissan's excellent media coverage. The Nissan Micra Cup is televised and streamed online – this high visibility helps the drivers get sponsors, contrary to other series. Entering our fourth season, I bet there are only a few people in Canadian paddocks and tracks that do not know what the Nissan Micra Cup is!





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POSTCARD



Karen Ackroyd has opened the parade lap with her old 1987 Micra, with Eddy Wong (Alta Nissan).



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CANADIAN TIRE MOTORSPORT PARK RACE 1 AND 2 RESULTS

ROUND
1

QUALIFICATION RACE 1

- 1) Olivier Bédard #1
- 2) Normand Boyer #11
- 3) Kevin King #40
- 4) Fadi Mourad #77
- 5) Valérie Limoges #220
- 6) Edward Wong #80
- 7) Austin Riley #20
- 8) Jake Exton #00
- 9) Peter Dyck #73
- 10) Frédéric Bernier #28
- 11) Mario Berthiaume #728
- 12) Mike Ogren #17
- 13) Michael Habrich #88
- 14) Alex Habrich #75
- 15) Sylvain Ouellet #98
- 16) Vic Simone #8

QUALIFICATION RACE 2

- 1) Olivier Bédard #1
- 2) Fadi Mourad #77
- 3) Normand Boyer #11
- 4) Kevin King #40
- 5) Valérie Limoges #220
- 6) Edward Wong #80
- 7) Jake Exton #00
- 8) Austin Riley #20
- 9) Peter Dyck #73
- 10) Frédéric Bernier #28
- 11) Mario Charette #728
- 12) Mike Ogren #17
- 13) Michael Habrich #88
- 14) Alex Habrich #75
- 15) Sylvain Ouellet #98
- 16) Vic Simone #8

RACE 1

- 1) Olivier Bédard 13 laps
- 2) Normand Boyer -5.017
- 3) Kevin King -5.727
- 4) Jake Exton -19.625
- 5) Peter Dyck -21.909
- 6) Frédéric Bernier -23.131
- 7) Michael Habrich -23.435
- 8) Edward Wong -38.004
- 9) Mike Ogren -42.308
- 10) Austin Riley -42.884
- 11) Sylvain Ouellet -48.375
- 12) Alex Habrich -50.114
- 13) Mario Berthiaume -50.614
- 14) Vic Simone -10 laps
- 15) Valérie Limoges -12 laps
- 16) Fadi Mourad -13 laps

RACE 2

- 1) Kevin King 16 laps
- 2) Olivier Bédard -0.978
- 3) Valérie Limoges -1.575
- 4) Normand Boyer -2.831
- 5) Fadi Mourad -3.188
- 6) Jake Exton -5.022
- 7) Frédéric Bernier -6.420
- 8) Mike Ogren -7.416
- 9) Austin Riley -8.121
- 10) Sylvain Ouellet -9.362
- 11) Michael Habrich -10.081
- 12) Alex Habrich -10.836
- 13) Vic Simone -12.085
- 14) Mario Charette -1 lap
- 15) Edward Wong -5 laps
- 16) Peter Dyck -5 laps

Sunday's podium with the Top 3 and Canadian athlete Matt Hughes.



DRIVERS STANDINGS

- 1) Olivier Bédard 80 points
- 2) Kevin King 74 points
- 3) Normand Boyer (Senior) 66 points
- 4) Jake Exton 48 points
- 5) Valérie Limoges 38 points
- 5) Frédéric Bernier (Senior) 38 points
- 7) Mike Ogren 30 points
- 8) Fadi Mourad (rookie) 29 points
- 8) Peter Dyck (Senior) 29 points
- 10) Michael Habrich 28 points
- 11) Austin Riley 26 points
- 12) Sylvain Ouellet (Senior) 22 points
- 12) Edward Wong (Senior) 22 points
- 14) Alex Habrich (Senior) 18 points
- 15) Vic Simone (Senior) 15 points
- 16) Mario Berthiaume (Senior) 8 points
- 17) Mario Charette (S.+R.) 7 points

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