



MICRA CUP

MAGAZINE



CANADIAN TIRE MOTORSPORT PARK
AUGUST 23-24-25

EVENT
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MARCO SIGNORETTI

CLAIMS TWO VICTORIES AND TOP SPOT IN THE CHAMPIONSHIP STANDINGS

- First overall victories for a Nissan Micra Cup Novice driver and Austin Riley impresses this weekend at the Canadian Tire Motorsport Park -

This weekend at the Canadian Tire Motorsport Park track northeast of Toronto, the Nissan Micra Cup held its ninth and tenth races of the 2019 season. The two events were presented as part of the NASCAR Truck Series weekend, one of the most notable of the season in Canada, and saw Marco Signoretti claim his first win in the Nissan Micra Cup series.

On Saturday, several Ontarian drivers on the track didn't miss their chance to shine in front of fans including Marco Signoretti, Austin Riley and Jake Exton who qualified in the first three positions heading into the first race on Saturday. Valérie Limoges, once again among the front-runners, qualified in fourth ahead of championship leader Kevin King and Signoretti's teammate, Taylor Near.

Saturday's action-packed race saw Signoretti and Exton occupy the front positions lap after lap, however, it was Austin Riley that impressed the crowd with his performance as the young driver with autism overtook Exton, then battled Signoretti for the victory.

The last lap of the race was particularly intense which ended with Marco Signoretti securing his first win of the series, just ahead of his PayPal/Motorsports In Action teammate, Taylor Near. Jake Exton (Clarington Nissan) finished in third place after a photo finish with Austin Riley (Racing with Autism), who were separated by a mere seven one-thousandths of a second when crossing the finish line. However, Near was penalized by one position, placing Exton in second, Near in third, and Riley in fourth.

Behind this Ontario foursome, a first in the history of the series, was Senior Class winner Sylvain Ouellet. Valérie Limoges (H Grégoire Nissan), who was involved in an intense battle for third place during the first half of the race, finished in sixth ahead of the newcomer Gavin Sanders, who had an impressive Nissan Micra Cup debut. Kevin King, André Lapointe, and Xavier Lassus followed suit rounding out the top 10.

On Sunday morning, a trio of Ontarian drivers dominated the front of the pack with the PayPal/Motorsports In Action team drivers, Signoretti

and Near, earning the first starting line just ahead of Austin Riley. Limoges and King claimed fourth and fifth place, followed by Sanders.

During the lunch hour, a parade for Canadian Nissan Micra and Z owners and a Nissan Micra cup drivers' autograph session was hosted. Later in the afternoon, the exceptional 100 per cent electric Nissan LEAF NISMO RC returned to the Canadian Tire Motorsport Park as the series' pace car and led the group of Micras to start the second race.

A thrilling battle for first position quickly ensued between Signoretti, Riley, Exton and Near. By mid-race, Signoretti and Riley had distanced themselves from the rest of the group, and despite pressure from a very poised and mature Austin Riley, Signoretti didn't relent and went on to claim his second victory of the weekend.

Valérie Limoges edged out Jake Exton at the finish line by just 58 thousandths of a second. Taylor Near rounded out the top five, ahead of Gavin Sanders, the top placed Senior Class Sylvain Ouellet, Frédéric Bernier, André Lapointe and Mario Berthiaume. Kevin King is eleventh.

Signoretti and King remain the only two battling for the championship title, which will play out at the end of September during the grand finale in Quebec at the Circuit Mont-Tremblant.





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IN THE NISSAN MICRA CUP WORLD



GAVIN SANDERS, NEW ROOKIE FROM KARTING!

The 2019 season may be at its penultimate event, but the Nissan Micra Cup continues to attract many drivers. Each event this year saw at least one new driver arrive in the series and this weekend at Canadian Tire Motorsport Park was no exception as Ontario's Gavin Sanders made his debut. Sanders is the karting star of the Canadian championship, Eastern Canadian, and "Ron Fellows Challenge" Series in recent seasons. Before that, the only other racing experience other than karting the young driver from Mount Albert, Ontario had was two days at Lucas Oil Racing School in Bowling Green, Kentucky in 2017 where he learned the basics of Open Wheel car and driving a Formula 1600. In other words, he had a lot to learn during his debut this weekend at the Nissan Micra Cup while driving the number 10 Micra S of SPI Racing. Nevertheless, Saunders completed both races and finished in seventh on Saturday and sixth on Sunday.



MARCO SIGNORETTI IS THE 2019 ROOKIE CHAMPION!

Ontario's Marco Signoretti, the rookie championship leader since the beginning of the season at the Canadian Tire Motorsport Park in May, put an end to the suspense for the title in this category over the weekend. With a lead of more than 100 points over Quebecker Éric Chaput, the young driver of the PayPal / Motorsports In Action team has guaranteed himself the title. Signoretti started in the Nissan Micra Cup and touring car competitions this year after 12 years in karting. He's demonstrated an impressive track record from the very first race, and is currently battling against Kevin King for the overall championship title which will unfold at Circuit Mont-Tremblant in five weeks.

NICOLAS BARRETTE'S CAR... SEIZED?

Nicolas Barrette had a unique misfortune on Saturday. While both Nicolas and his crew were away from the paddock, Valérie Limoges, Kevin King and their team members moved his car and hid it under a canvas, then left a note on his truck carrier imitating that the police had seized his race car! Nicolas stressfully discovering his missing #427 Micra and the police note - created by Valérie Limoges - was a hilarious scene for bystanders at the scene to witness, to say the least! However, the joke was eventually revealed to Nicolas - who was convinced that the police notification was real - when he went to contact the authorities to recover his car. Everyone had a good laugh once the friendly hoax was revealed.



NEXT EVENT: THE SEASON FINALE AT MONT-TREMBLANT...

The upcoming Fall Classic on September 27-29 at Circuit Mont-Tremblant is the final event of the season, which is where the 2019 Nissan Micra Cup champions will be crowned. Will it be Kevin King or Marco Signoretti that's crowned the championship title? Could Valérie Limoges surprise fans with another victory this season on the famous circuit located in the heart of the Laurentians mountains? The final event of the 2019 season will take place in Quebec where thousands of spectators are expected to attend. This is an event you don't want to miss!



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2... 3 QUESTIONS TO **VALÉRIE LIMOGES**

Valérie Limoges has secured victories and earned pole positions throughout the Nissan Micra Cup series. She also became the first Canadian female driver to win an overall race at the Grand Prix de Trois-Rivières two weeks ago. This weekend at the CTMP, she played the role of referee in the duel for the title between Kevin King and Marco Signoretti. As an experienced driver who has raced in Open-Wheel cars (F1600 and Formula Renault), in endurance racing, and in many Touring car championships, Limoges chose the Nissan Micra Cup series for her racing comeback in 2015. Since then, she has enjoyed the ride and has fought at the forefront of the series. What does she think about the series and how does she feel about the Nissan Micra Cup family? She tells us all about it...

Valerie, after almost five seasons in the series, what still motivates an experienced driver like yourself at the beginning of a race weekend?

A lot of things, but first and foremost is the competition. If it was not as competitive, I would be much less interested. So, what I like about the Nissan Micra Cup is that we always have competition. We are not talking about a series where there are only a few cars or where the power of the engines is not equal. I have already been in that kind of series and it doesn't interest me. When I stand on the podium after a race that has 20 or 25 drivers at the start, I feel like I really deserve it, I'm happy. If you really want to know if you have talent in motorsport, you have to register in a competitive series like the Nissan Micra Cup where you will have your answer very quickly. It doesn't lie. I don't like to know in advance who will win a race. In the Nissan Micra Cup, the level of competition is very high and that has not changed since the beginning of the series. I think that is one of the reasons it's still successful.

Even if it isn't over yet, what's your assessment of 2019 season which saw you clinch your first pole position in the series and a victory at the GP3R?

It's been a season with ups and downs. I had good results, but bad ones too. My car is getting old and we had a couple of mechanical issues. This isn't a maintenance problem, but some parts have had it. This is normal but it's disappointing to look at the gap that I now have with the top two in the championship standings. If I hadn't had these misfortunes, I think I would have been battling with them for the title. However, I'm still motivated and I will continue to persevere in the two races that remain at the end of September.

A less known aspect of your involvement in the Nissan Micra Cup is your work with the Auto Sport Quebec federation to evaluate new drivers who want to get a license to come in the series. How is that going?

I'm really glad that I was asked to get involved in the series at this level since I know the car and the series well. I think people trust my judgment and accept my advice, so I believe I'm a good candidate for this role. I also like this involvement because it helps to bring new drivers into the series, which is always pleasant. The new drivers meet me at the races, they come to talk to me and I try to give them hints. They are all at different levels with different goals but it's always nice to help them.





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POSTCARD





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CANADIAN TIRE MOTORSPORT PARK RACE 9 AND 10 RESULTS

QUALIFICATION RACE 1

1) Marco Signoretto	#97
2) Austin Riley	#20
3) Jake Exton	#00
4) Valérie Limoges	#220
5) Kevin King	#40
6) Taylor Near	#58
7) Sylvain Ouellet	#98
8) Frédéric Bernier	#28
9) Gavin Sanders	#10
10) Nicolas Barrette	#427
11) André Lapointe	#47
12) Xavier Lassus	#6
13) Mario Charette	#728
DNS) Éric Chaput	#116

QUALIFICATION RACE 2

1) Marco Signoretto	#97
2) Taylor Near	#58
3) Austin Riley	#20
4) Valérie Limoges	#220
5) Kevin King	#40
6) Gavin Sanders	#10
7) Jake Exton	#00
8) Sylvain Ouellet	#98
9) Nicolas Barrette	#427
10) Éric Chaput	#116
11) André Lapointe	#47
12) Mario Berthiaume	#728
13) Xavier Lassus	#6
EXC) Frédéric Bernier	#28

RACE 1 RESULTS

1) Marco Signoretto	16 laps
2) Jake Exton	-1.196
3) Taylor Near	Penalty
4) Austin Riley	-1.203
5) Sylvain Ouellet	-6.545
6) Valérie Limoges	Penalty
7) Gavin Sanders	Penalty
8) Kevin King	Penalty
9) André Lapointe	-6.817
10) Xavier Lassus	-7.305
11) Mario Charette	-9.041
12) Frédéric Bernier	-5 laps
13) Éric Chaput	-6 laps
14) Nicolas Barrette	-15 laps

RACE 2 RESULTS

1) Marco Signoretto	23 laps
2) Austin Riley	-0.190
3) Valérie Limoges	-11.055
4) Jake Exton	-11.113
5) Taylor Near	-12.462
6) Gavin Sanders	-24.907
7) Sylvain Ouellet	-45.962
8) Frédéric Bernier	-48.555
9) André Lapointe	-48.956
10) Mario Berthiaume	-49.387
11) Kevin King	-1.06:636
12) Xavier Lassus	-1.11:990
13) Nicolas Barrette	-8 laps
DNS) Éric Chaput	-----



DRIVERS STANDINGS

1) Marco Signoretto (Rookie)	344 points	18) Gavin Sanders (Rookie)	38 points
2) Kevin King	302 points	19) Alex Habrich (Senior)	29 points
3) Valérie Limoges	252 points	20) Marie-Josée Massicotte (S.+R.)	28 points
4) Taylor Near	212 points	21) Charles Robin	26 points
5) Frédéric Bernier (Senior)	207 points	22) Nicolas Touchette (Senior)	23 points
6) Sylvain Ouellet (Senior)	191 points	22) Michael Habrich	23 points
7) Austin Riley	182 points	24) Martin Barrette (Rookie)	20 points
8) Jake Exton	171 points	25) Frédéric Bouthillier (Rookie)	19 points
9) Nicolas Barrette	152 points	26) Demi Chalkias	16 points
10) Éric Chaput (S.+R.)	131 points	27) Perry Wener (S.+R.)	15 points
11) Olivier Bédard	101 points	28) Michel Barrette (S.+R.)	15 points
12) Jesse Lazare	82 points	29) Peter Hanson (Senior)	13 points
13) Xavier Lassus (S.+R.)	68 points	30) Nathan Gilbert (Rookie)	11 points
14) Mario Berthiaume (Senior)	58 points	31) Paul Dargis (Senior)	9 points
15) Jean-Michel Isabelle	55 points	32) Roger Champoux (S.+R.)	6 points
16) André Lapointe (S.+R.)	49 points	33) Charles Deschênes	5 points
17) Mario Charette (Senior)	47 points	34) Mario Dufour (S.+R.)	2 points

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