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MICRA CUP MAGAZINE



ROUND 2



CIRCUIT GILLES-VILLENEUVE
JUNE 5, 6, 7

**PARTY TIME
IN MONTREAL!**

FORMULA 1 GRAND PRIX DU CANADA 2015



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BÉDARD AND RZADZINSKI WIN AT THE GRAND PRIX DU CANADA

- Tens of thousands of spectators held in suspense by
Nissan Micra Cup drivers at Circuit Gilles-Villeneuve -

This weekend, the Nissan Micra Cup presented the second event of its inaugural season as part of the biggest Canadian sport event of the year, the Grand Prix du Canada on the circuit Gilles-Villeneuve in Montreal. Two races, won by Olivier Bédard and Stefan Rzadzinski, were intense from the first lap to the last keeping the tens of thousands of spectators on the edge of their seats. For many, this was their first exposure to the series and the twenty-five Nissan Micra drivers in full action.

After Friday's erratic weather with the practice session on a dry track and the qualification session on a very wet track, the first race took place in full sun on Saturday afternoon, only two hours after the F1's qualification session. Qualified in pole position, Quebec's Olivier Bédard led the whole race, creating a gap of almost five seconds on the duo composed by Nissan GT Academy driver Thanaroj Tanasitnitikate and the hockey player Marc-André Bergeron, who fought a fierce battle with both drivers crossing the finish line separated by only tenths of seconds.

Back in competition after sixteen years of absence, veteran and driving instructor Richard Spénard ranked himself fourth, after a very nice ascent. Following the lead of the best drivers in practice session, where he climbed to second position, he showed that he did not lose his immense talent. Spénard ranked ahead of Pierre

Clavet, Valérie Chiasson, Indian Abhinay Bikkani, second driver of the GT Academy, Paul Dargis, Benoît Gagnon and best rookie, Olivier Pelletier.

Sunday morning, it's in front of a massive crowd that the Nissan Micra Cup presented an exceptionally intense second race. In the track sections that are equally as mythical as the famous Senna, East hairpin or the breaking zone at the "Wall of Champions" turns, there was numerous overtaking. Leading the race, Olivier Bédard and Stefan Rzadzinski traded the first position multiple times. At the end, Rzadzinski had the best of Bédard, winning the race by a nose.

In terms of a perfectly executed race, Valérie Chiasson ends in third position. Thus, she writes Canadian motorsport modern history, as she is the first female driver to clinch an overall podium spot on the circuit Gilles-Villeneuve.

Behind the wheel of these almost stock Nissan Micra, Richard Spénard, drivers from the GT Academy, Tanasitnitikate and Bikkani, Jacques Bélanger and Marc-André Bergeron brought the crowd on its feet in their battle for the fourth spot. Abhinay Bikkani and Thanaroj Tanasitnitikate managed to take this highly coveted position from Richard Spénard. Bélanger, Bergeron, Kevin King and rookie Metod Topolnik complete the "Top 10".

In the driver's championship, Bédard leads with 148 points, in front of Tanasitnitikate (142), Rzadzinski (114), Valérie Chiasson (98), Bikkani (71) and Bergeron (70). Metod Topolnik still leads the rookie championship.

For more information on the Nissan Micra Cup and its driver, please visit www.nissan.ca/micracup. Don't miss the series news on the [Facebook page Coupe Nissan Micra Cup](#) and the posts/live results during practice and qualifying sessions, and races on [Twitter: @micracup](#)



IN THE MICRA CUP WORLD



KING RICHARD IN ACTION!

Ex-teammate of legendary Gilles Villeneuve in the 1970s in Formula Atlantic, multiple time champion in different Canadian road course series in the 1990s, Richard Spénard hadn't competed in any official races for 16 years. Recruited by Albi Nissan Île-Perrot, he made his grand debut in the Nissan Micra Cup series. Sporting number 61, a nod to his age, Spénard, who made his name in racing by being one of the most popular coaches in the Canadian racing community, showed that his talent stayed intact. Qualified 9th, he finished in 4th and 6th position in the two races.

PELLETIER AND TOPOLNIK WIN IN THE ROOKIES

Olivier Pelletier and Metod Topolnik shared victories among the rookie drivers. They both achieved a «Top ten» finish, Pelletier on the Saturday, and Topolnik the Sunday. Olivier's Sunday race was cut short after he was victim of a contact with Benoît Gagnon in the fifth lap.

THE NISSAN MICRA CUP AT THE OPEN HOUSE...

Traditional activity for the kick-off of the Grand Prix weekend, the open house attracted thousands of spectators once again. Two drivers from the Nissan Micra Cup, Valérie Chiasson and Valérie Limoges, were proudly representing the series, with their Micra Race Cars parked on the pit lane for everyone to see. The two drivers were quickly overwhelmed with questions and autographs for fans, who were happy to meet the drivers before peeking at the Nissan Micra, cars that are equally fun-to-drive on the road and on the track.



CARL WENER, DRIVER AND TEAM OWNER

Sharing the wheel of Micra #86 this season with Pierre Clavet and Jean-Michel Isabelle, Carl Wener returned to racing at Circuit Gilles-Villeneuve this weekend. Driving instructor at Autodrome St-Eustache, the Montréal-based driver competed in the American World Challenge series twenty years ago. Wener successfully manages family-owned Perry Compétition which also has car #11 driven by Martin Husar, in the series. After starting in pole position in Sunday's race, thanks to Pierre Clavet's time, Wener ended the race in 16th position. « It is very impressive to be on this circuit. It was obviously mission impossible for me to keep a good rhythm in comparison to the regulars of the series. But I had so much fun towards the middle of the race. I can't wait until next time » he said.



NEW NISSAN CAR CARE AND CHEMICAL PRODUCTS FOR COMPETITORS

The best drivers and all car enthusiasts know that proper vehicle care and maintenance is crucial to produce an optimum driving experience. To ensure the Micra Cup race cars are shining stars on the track, Nissan Canada, through its Aftersales Division, is pleased to provide a sample (10 products) package of its newly-launched vehicle care products to all of the Micra Cup drivers. The lineup now features new products such as *Tire Shine and Dressing*, *Wheel Cleaner* as well as a *Spray and Shine Detailer*— a must-have for all Micra Cup teams as it allows for rapid cleaning and leaves the car with a showroom shine on race day!

Nissan Micra Cup – vehicle care package:

- LITHIUM GREASE
- SILICONE SPRAY
- GLASS CLEANER
- SYNTHETIC SPRAY
- MULTI PURPOSE LUBRICANT
- FOAMY PENETRATING SPRAY
- TIRE SHINE & DRESSING
- MULTI-PURPOSE CLEANER
- SPRAY & SHINE DETAILER
- WHEEL & RIM CLEANER

The expanded selection of automotive chemicals and car care products is available at all Nissan dealerships. From professional grade brake cleaner and rust penetrant, to car care product like leather and vinyl cleaner and touch screen cleaner, Nissan's new collection of vehicle care products has every car part covered!



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2... 3 QUESTIONS FOR... METOD TOPOLNIK

Used to doing laps on race tracks with his personal car, Metod Topolnik, the best rookie at the first two races of the season, learned the circuit Gilles-Villeneuve with 300 km on his bicycle! He takes part this season with his Synoptic Racing #78 Micra Azure, sporting the colours of Montreal organization «Dans la Rue» (In the Street).

Can you tell us more about your association with Dans la Rue?

Dans la Rue is an organization in Montreal, created by pastor Emmett «Pops» Johns, that gives timely assistance to troubled kids between the ages of 12 and 25. This foundation provides psychological support in addition to food, clothing and nightly shelter to kids living on the street. It is a very worthy cause, solely powered by volunteers that give a helping hand to young people who would otherwise not receive any.



Why did you choose the Nissan Micra Cup to raise awareness for this cause?

We choose the Nissan Micra Cup series because we are going to compete at Montréal's Grand Prix of Canada, which should give us a lot of visibility. We had space on our car besides our principal sponsors and I thought it would be a great opportunity to raise awareness for *Dans la Rue* and the fact that it helps people who are less fortunate than us.

What are your season goals for your team?

It's my first season as part of an organized race series like the Nissan Micra Cup so in essence, I don't have any expectations other than having a lot of fun and enjoying every race. We also hope that spectators get to learn about the great work *Dans la Rue* does in the Montreal area.



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POSTCARD



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NEXT EVENT: SUMMER CLASSIC!

The third event of the Nissan Micra Cup will be held on the 25th and 26th of July, on the Circuit Mont-Tremblant, for the Summer Classic. This will be a return to majestic Circuit of the Laurentians for the drivers of the series, who made their season's debut there. Will Thanaraj Thanasititike, driver for the Nissan GT Academy be able to repeat the same achievement he did last May, when he won two thrilling races? Join us on the 25th and 26th at Circuit Mont-Tremblant to find out.



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CIRCUIT GILLES-VILLENEUVE RACE 3 AND 4 RESULTS

FREE PRACTICE

1) Stefan Rzdzinski	No.69
2) Richard Spénard	No.61
3) Thanaraj Thanasitnitike	No.2
4) Marc-André Bergeron	No.88
5) Olivier Bédard	No.96
6) Valérie Chiasson	No.26
7) Olivier Pelletier	No.5
8) Metod Topolnik	No.78
9) Nicolas Touchette	No.55
10) Abhinay Bikkani	No.3
11) Paul Dargis	No.29
12) Claude Leclerc	No.572
13) Marc-Antoine Demers	No.422
14) Benoît Gagnon	No.220
15) Kevin King	No.40
16) Carl Wener	No.86
17) Valérie Limoges	No.4
18) Martin Gray	No.8
19) David Booth	No.24
20) Frédéric Bernier	No.28
21) Éric Lefrançois	No.23
22) Martin Husar	No.11
23) Yves Aubé	No.7
24) Alex Habrich	No.75
25) Mario Berthiaume	No.7
DNS - Chris Sahakian	No.9

QUALIFYING SESSION

1) Olivier Bédard	No.96
2) Pierre Clavet	No.86
3) Stefan Rzdzinski	No.69
4) Thanaraj Thanasitnitike	No.2
5) Marc-André Bergeron	No.88
6) Valérie Chiasson	No.26
7) Jacques Bélanger	No.29
8) Olivier Pelletier	No.5
9) Richard Spénard	No.61
10) Benoît Gagnon	No.220
11) Abhinay Bikkani	No.3
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19) David Booth	No.24
20) Yves Aubé	No.7
21) Éric Lefrançois	No.23
22) Martin Husar	No.11
23) Alex Habrich	No.75
24) Mario Berthiaume	No.7
DNS - Martin Gray	No.8
DNS - Chris Sahakian	No.9

RACE 1

1) Olivier Bédard	12 tours
2) Thanaraj Thanasitnitike	-4.409
3) Marc-André Bergeron	-5.273
4) Richard Spénard	-13.538
5) Valérie Chiasson	-14.421
6) Pierre Clavet	-14.971
7) Abhinay Bikkani	-21.732
8) Paul Dargis	-23.213
9) Benoît Gagnon	-23.874
10) Olivier Pelletier	-24.774
11) Stefan Rzdzinski	-32.354
12) Metod Topolnik	-36.080
13) Marc-Antoine Demers	-38.287
14) Valérie Limoges	-39.523
15) Martin Gray	-46.714
16) Frédéric Bernier	-48.148
17) David Booth	-49.890
18) Kevin King	-54.869
19) Martin Husar	-1.14.428
20) Éric Lefrançois	-1.18.860
21) Mario Berthiaume	-1.33.955
22) Yves Aubé	-1.34.998
23) Alex Habrich	-1.41.152
24) Claude Leclerc	-10 tours
25) Nicolas Touchette	-10 tours
DNS - Chris Sahakian	-----

RACE 2

1) Stefan Rzdzinski	12 tours
2) Olivier Bédard	-3.886
3) Valérie Chiasson	-6.114
4) Abhinay Bikkani	-8.541
5) Thanaraj Thanasitnitike	-10.341
6) Richard Spénard	-10.499
7) Jacques Bélanger	-11.074
8) Marc-André Bergeron	-16.539
9) Kevin King	-22.398
10) Metod Topolnik	-23.193
11) Marc-Antoine Demers	-23.222
12) Martin Gray	-27.419
13) Valérie Limoges	-28.051
14) Nicolas Touchette	-29.788
15) Frédéric Bernier	-29.819
16) Carl Wener	-36.548
17) David Booth	-44.155
18) Yves Aubé	-48.367
19) Martin Husar	-1.00.848
20) Mario Berthiaume	-1.05.107
21) Éric Lefrançois	-1.05.838
22) Alex Habrich	-1.26.913
23) Olivier Pelletier	-7 tours
24) Benoît Gagnon	-10 tours
DNS - Chris Sahakian	-----
DNS - Claude Leclerc	-----

DRIVER'S STANDINGS

1) Olivier Bédard	148 points	15) Jacques Bélanger	28 points
2) Thanaraj Thanasitnitike	142 points	16) Paul Dargis	28 points
3) Stefan Rzdzinski	114 points	17) Frédéric Bernier	27 points
4) Valérie Chiasson	98 points	18) Nicolas Touchette	26 points
5) Abhinay Bikkani	71 points	19) Kevin King	18 points
6) Marc-André Bergeron	70 points	20) Yves Aubé	17 points
7) Metod Topolnik	59 points	21) Benoît Gagnon	16 points
8) Richard Spénard	48 points	22) Martin Gray	15 points
9) Carl Nadeau	46 points	23) Chris Sahakian	13 points
10) Valérie Limoges	45 points	24) Claude Leclerc	11 points
11) Olivier Pelletier	42 points	25) Alex Habrich	8 points
12) Jean-Michel Isabelle	36 points	26) Mario Berthiaume	6 points
13) Marc-Antoine Demers	34 points	27) Martin Husar	6 points
14) Pierre Clavet	30 points	28) Carl Wener	5 points

