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# MICRA CUP MAGAZINE



**ROUND 3**

**CIRCUIT MONT-TREMBLANT  
JULY 25, 26**

**A SUMMER FULL  
OF ACTION!**





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## ***DOUBLE VICTORY FOR NISSAN GT ACADEMY DRIVER ABHINAY BIKKANI AT THE CIRCUIT MONT-TREMBLANT*** – Another two exciting races in the Nissan Micra Cup –

The fifth and sixth rounds of the Nissan Micra Cup took place this past weekend at the Circuit Mont-Tremblant, in the majestic Laurentides region of Quebec. Spectators were not given much time to appreciate the beauty of their surroundings as the Nissan Micra Cup drivers treated them to two spectacular races. By the end of Saturday's race, the Nissan GT Academy drivers, Abhinay Bikkani from India and Thanaroj Thanasitnitike of Thailand, finished in first and second place respectively in a tight battle that saw the first six cars cross the finish line within 2.5 seconds. On Sunday, the order of the first five cars was identical to that of the previous day, with Bikkani earning full points.

Taking advantage of the Nissan Micra's exceptional driving agility with panache, the 25 drivers entered in this doubleheader, which marked the end of the first half of the season, delivered multiple battles, both at the front of the pack and further down the peloton.

Qualifying in pole position for the first round on Saturday, Thanaroj Thanasitnitike led the first few laps, never quite being able to shake off his chasing teammate Bikkani or Albertan driver Stefan Rzadzinski. Series leader Olivier Bédard, as well as Valérie Limoges, who executed a nice climb up from tenth place on the starting grid, and Valérie Chiasson, who started in fifth but gave up four spots before climbing back, all joined the three favourites at the front of the pack.

On the last turn, each of the six drivers attempted the pass that would give them the victory. But with identical cars for everyone, and with a version that is so similar to a stock car, it's not enough to just have driving talent; drivers must also be very opportunistic. Bikkani came out on top, on his way to claiming his first-ever series victory. Thanasitnitike finished just three-tenths of a second behind, slightly ahead of Rzadzinski, Bédard, Limoges and Chiasson.

After a great start to the race, Metod Topolnik relinquished three places during the event. He finished seventh overall but was the first novice driver, which consolidated his position as championship leader in the rookie category. Marc-Antoine Demers, Jacques Bélanger and Kevin King completed the "Top 10."

Taking place on Sunday afternoon, in intense heat, the second race kicked off with similar momentum. Unfortunately, the first lap resulted in a hit that forced Metod Topolnik to abandon the race, soon followed by Valérie Chiasson and Yves Aubé. Grouped at the front of the pack, Bikkani, Thanasitnitike, Rzadzinski and Bédard crossed the finish line in the same order, separated by just over one second.

Valérie Limoges completed the Top five, just as the night before, ahead of Olivier Pelletier who earned his second novice win of the season. Jacques Bélanger finished seventh ahead of Marc-Antoine Demers, Kevin King and Louis-Philippe Montour, who made his series debut this weekend.

In the drivers' championship, Thanasitnitike (216 points) retook the lead ahead of Olivier Bédard (202). Rzadzinski remains in third (180) ahead of Bikkani (155) who took over fourth place from Valérie Chiasson (121). Metod Topolnik still leads the novice championship.

For more information on the Nissan Micra Cup, please go to the website [www.nissan.ca/micracup](http://www.nissan.ca/micracup). Don't miss series news and updates on the [Coupe Nissan Micra Cup Facebook page](#) and live tweets/results during practice, qualifying, and races on [Twitter: @micracup](#)



# IN THE MICRA CUP WORLD



## ELVIS STOJKO JOINS THE PACK

The Nissan Micra Cup not only attracts drivers from different motorsport backgrounds, but also former Olympians. In Trois-Rivières a popular Canadian athlete will make his debut, Elvis Stojko. Former figure skating athlete, three-time world champion and double-time silver medallist at the Olympic Games in Lillehammer and Nagano, Stojko retired from skating competition in 2002 and is currently interested in racing competition after trying his hand at karting in Mexico. He will be in Trois-Rivières aboard a Nissan Micra prepared by the Albi Nissan team, who will also have another rookie racing with them, ex-Formula Atlantic star, Antoine Bessette. It will be interesting to follow their performances throughout the weekend!



## TROIS-RIVIÈRES RESIDENTS IN FRONT OF THEIR PUBLIC...

The Grand Prix de Trois-Rivières will surely be one of the highlights of the season. Besides Marc-André Bergeron and Paul Dargis, two other drivers from the motorsport-loving city will be on track in front of their hometown crowd: rookie Mario Berthiaume and Kevin King. Both drivers were on track at Circuit Mont-Tremblant for the Summer Classic with different goals. For Berthiaume, it was to gain more and more experience, as for King he was aiming for a first "Top 5" after some promising races at the Grand Prix du Canada in June. Let us not forget that our very own Jacques Deshaies, promoter of the series, is from Trois-Rivières.



## ÉRIC SALVAIL IN TROIS-RIVIÈRES...

The popular TV host, Éric Salvail, who shares the limelight with Alex Tagliani in the new TV spot promoting the Nissan Micra, will be at the Grand Prix de Trois-Rivières. Although Éric is not set to participate in the two races, he will most certainly be spending a lot of time in the Nissan Micra Cup paddocks to support the series' drivers.



## FUN AND GOOD MUSIC!

While stress and anticipation is the consistent atmosphere in the paddocks during a race weekend, in Mont-Tremblant, a few drivers found a way to relax after the track activities. On Saturday night, good music and festive ambiance were enjoyed by a few drivers in the Mont-Tremblant village. Pictured, from left-to-right, Stefan Rządziński, Olivier Bédard, Metod Topolnik, "Mr. T." and Abhinav Bikkani in front of the musical stage. Valérie Chiasson, Valérie Limoges and Mario Berthiaume were also seen on the site during the weekend.

## THE ALL-NEW NISSAN MAXIMA TO SERVE AS PACE CAR

At the Micra Cup Summer Classic at Circuit Mont-Tremblant, the 2016 Nissan Maxima sport sedan debuted on the race track as the Official Pace Car of the Nissan Micra Cup! Nissan's eighth-generation sports sedan has ideal credentials for this tough job in motorsport competition, as proven recently at Buttonwillow Raceway. AMCI Testing was contacted as an objective, independent third-party testing organization to certify differences in closed course lap performance between the 2015 Acura TLX 3.5, 2015 Audi A4 2.0T quattro®, 2015 BMW 328i sedan and the 2016 Nissan Maxima SR. When all laps were completed around the 1.8-mile, the new Maxima was clearly the fastest:

VEHICLE	SECONDS	MARGIN (SEC.)
Maxima SR	1:18.50	
BMW 328i	1:19.48	0,98
Acura TLX 3.5L	1:20.58	2,08
Audi A4 2.0T quattro	1:21.21	2,71



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## 2...3 QUESTIONS FOR... MARC-ANDRÉ BERGERON



A brilliant hockey player whose career in the National Hockey League spanned from 2003 to 2013, Marc-André Bergeron is now involved in two sports: hockey (he is about to start his third season in Switzerland) and racing. Missing the Summer Classic in Mont-Tremblant, he will be back in front of his home crowd at the Grand Prix de Trois-Rivières, where he hopes to finish on the podium...

### **Marc-André, why did you choose the Nissan Micra Cup?**

Firstly, I wanted to develop my driving skill by gaining experience racing in a tight pack, and for me, this

is what the Nissan Micra Cup is all about. This series allows drivers to develop their talent. You have to be aggressive while staying disciplined and cannot lose your pace otherwise you lose your position.

The Micra race cars are exactly the same and the competition is very high. This is what I needed. In the Touring car series, all the cars are different in terms of power so there are less direct battles. The second reason I chose this series is because my friend is the owner of [leprixdugros.com](http://leprixdugros.com) and he bought a Micra Cup race car last winter. He called to ask me to drive for them. It was easy to say yes because I was already considering participating in this series. The stars were aligned!

### **Why are you not participating in the whole season?**

I still play hockey and am starting my third season for Zurich's team in Switzerland. When summer arrives, it becomes hard to balance between these two sports because I am often gone to Europe for hockey. Thankfully, my schedule allows me to compete at the Grand Prix de Trois-Rivières, but after that, I don't think I can be back on track before 2016.

**You seem to have a lot of fun behind the wheel of Micra No. 88, and the highlight must be your podium finish Saturday at the Grand Prix du**

### **Canada. How was that moment?**

It is true that the Micra is fun to drive, but I didn't expect such a result! I've been racing for five years and it was my very first podium. With all the cars being equal it is not an easy series and I was very proud to reach the podium. And, winning in front of the F1 crowd... for ten minutes I thought I was Lewis Hamilton! I hope that I will be back on the podium at the GP3R. Trois-Rivières is home, my family and friends will be there and we proved that we can fight at the front pack. This is my goal!



## STAY CONNECTED WITH THE NISSAN MICRA CUP!



Follow us on Facebook:  
[Coupe Nissan Micra Cup](https://www.facebook.com/CoupeNissanMicraCup)



Follow the race as it unfolds on Twitter:  
[@micracup](https://twitter.com/micracup)

Visit our website:  
[www.nissan.ca/micra-cup/en/](http://www.nissan.ca/micra-cup/en/)



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### **NEXT EVENT: THE GP3R !**

The fourth event of the Nissan Micra Cup will be held on the 31st of July, 1st and 2nd August at the 46th edition of the Grand Prix de Trois-Rivières. Don't miss the action during the 30-minute each session: Friday at 3 p.m. (practice), Saturday at 8 a.m. (qualifying) and 11:45 a.m. (first race), and Sunday (second race at 9:20 a.m.).



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# CIRCUIT MONT-TREMBLANT RACE 5 AND 6 RESULTS

## QUALIFYING SESSION

1) Thanaraj Thanasitnikate	No.2
2) Abhinay Bikkani	No.3
3) Olivier Bédard	No.96
4) Stefan Rzdzinski	No.69
5) Valérie Chiasson	No.26
6) Metod Topolnik	No.78
7) Olivier Pelletier	No.5
8) Kevin King	No.40
9) Marc-Antoine Demers	No.422
10) Valérie Limoges	No.4
11) Jacques Bélanger	No.29
12) Wayne Marchand	No.88
13) Frédéric Bernier	No.28
14) Jeff Boudreault	No.220
15) Yves Aubé	No.7
16) C.Wener / J.M.Isabelle	No.86
17) Chris Sahakian	No.9
18) Mathieu St-Pierre	No.23
19) Martin Husar	No.11
20) Mario Berthiaume	No.7
21) Jim Kenzie	No.24
22) Alex Habrich	No.75
23) Ashley Sahakian	No.77
24) Louis-Philippe Montour	No.68

## RACE 1

1) Abhinay Bikkani	15 laps
2) Thanaraj Thanasitnikate	-0.340
3) Stefan Rzdzinski	-1.759
4) Olivier Bédard	-1.999
5) Valérie Limoges	-2.240
6) Valérie Chiasson	-2.451
7) Metod Topolnik	-7.811
8) Marc-Antoine Demers	-8.260
9) Jacques Bélanger	-8.707
10) Kevin King	-11.566
11) Wayne Marchand	-19.548
12) Louis-Philippe Montour	-26.635
13) Frédéric Bernier	-27.558
14) Carl Wener	-29.396
15) Chris Sahakian	-38.377
16) Mathieu St-Pierre	-38.850
17) Yves Aubé	-45.355
18) Mathieu Husar	-45.820
19) Jim Kenzie	-52.381
20) Mario Berthiaume	-53.181
21) Jeff Boudreault	-1:04.200
22) Alex Habrich	-1:39.121
23) Olivier Pelletier	-2 laps
24) Ashley Sahakian	-9 laps

## RACE 2

1) Abhinay Bikkani	13 laps
2) Thanaraj Thanasitnikate	-0.441
3) Stefan Rzdzinski	-0.958
4) Olivier Bédard	-1.323
5) Valérie Limoges	-4.266
6) Olivier Pelletier	-4.776
7) Jacques Bélanger	-5.331
8) Marc-Antoine Demers	-6.728
9) Kevin King	-7.619
10) Louis-Philippe Montour	-7.902
11) Jean-Michel Isabelle	-8.294
12) Jeff Boudreault	-11.442
13) Frédéric Bernier	-12.491
14) Wayne Marchand	-14.834
15) Chris Sahakian	-22.960
16) Martin Husar	-24.031
17) Mario Berthiaume	-24.724
18) Mathieu St-Pierre	-26.403
19) Jim Kenzie	-33.048
20) Alex Habrich	-33.653
21) Yves Aubé	-6 laps
22) Valérie Chiasson	-9 laps
23) Metod Topolnik	-13 laps
DNS) Ashley Sahakian	-----

## GP3R ENTRY LIST

2. Thanaraj Thanasitnikate	Nissan GT Academy
3. Abhinay Bikkani	Nissan GT Academy
4. Valérie Limoges	H.Grégoire
5. Olivier Pelletier	Albi Nissan Mascouche
7. Mario Berthiaume	MB Performance
8. Martin Gray	Alta Nissan
9. Chris Sahakian	United Auto Racing
11. Martin Husar	Momentum Racing
17. Yves Aubé	Nissan Val d'Or
23. Simon Dion-Viens	Nissan Canada
24. Mark Hacking	Nissan Canada
26. Valérie Chiasson	Groupe Nissan Gabriel
28. Frédéric Bernier	Hi-Fi Racing
29. J.Bélanger / P.Dargis	BDMS Racing
40. Kevin King	Bain Magique
55. Nicolas Touchette	Ici Pneus
61. Elvis Stojko	Albi Nissan Île-Perrot
68. ....	Motorsports In Action (MIA)
69. Stefan Rzdzinski	Motorsports In Action (MIA)
75. Alex Habrich	Unicorn Motorsports
78. Metod Topolnik	Azure Racing Team
77. Ashley Sahakian	United Auto Racing
86. J.M.Isabelle / C.Wener	Perry Compétition/P&J Racing
88. Marc-André Bergeron	Le Prix du Gros
96. Olivier Bédard	Sorel-Tracy Nissan/Proton
220. J.Boudreault / C.Nadeau	Total Racing Canada
422. Marc-Antoine Demers	Albi Nissan Repentigny
572. Antoine Bessette	Albi Nissan Blainville

## DRIVER'S STANDINGS

1) Thanaraj Thanasitnikate	216 points	17) Pierre Clavet	30 points
2) Olivier Bédard	202 points	18) Paul Dargis	28 points
3) Stefan Rzdzinski	180 points	19) Nicolas Touchette	26 points
4) Abhinay Bikkani	155 points	20) Chris Sahakian	25 points
5) Valérie Chiasson	121 points	20) Yves Aubé	25 points
6) Valérie Limoges	93 points	22) Louis-Philippe Montour	21 points
7) Metod Topolnik	79 points	23) Wayne Marchand	17 points
8) Marc-André Bergeron	70 points	24) Benoît Gagnon	16 points
9) Marc-Antoine Demers	66 points	25) Martin Gray	15 points
10) Olivier Pelletier	64 points	25) Martin Husar	15 points
11) Jacques Bélanger	60 points	27) Alex Habrich	14 points
12) Richard Spégnard	48 points	28) Mario Berthiaume	13 points
13) Carl Nadeau	46 points	29) Carl Wener	12 points
13) Jean-Michel Isabelle	46 points	29) Jeff Boudreault	12 points
15) Kevin King	44 points	31) Claude Leclerc	11 points
16) Frédéric Bernier	43 points	32) Ashley Sahakian	2 points



## THE NISSAN MICRA CUP ON RDS!

Watch the Trois-Rivières Nissan Micra Cup races on RDS.  
Airing on Saturday Sept. 5th between 10 a.m. and 11 a.m.  
and again on RDS2 Sept. 8th at 7 p.m.

