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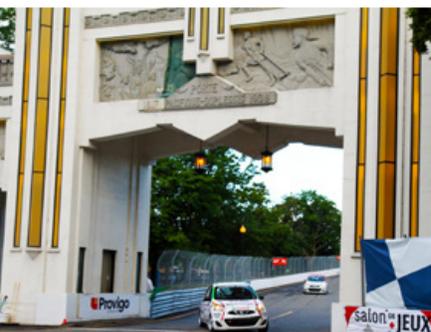
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# MICRA CUP MAGAZINE



## ROUND 4



GRAND PRIX  
OF TROIS-RIVIÈRES  
JULY 31, AUGUST 1<sup>ST</sup> AND 2<sup>ND</sup>

**THE MICRA INVADES  
THE CITY!**



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# **BÉDARD ET RZADZINSKI SHARE VICTORIES IN TROIS-RIVIÈRES**

- The Nissan Micra Cup shines on a dry track as well as in the rain -

**This past weekend, as part of the forty-sixth edition of the Grand Prix de Trois-Rivières, the Nissan Micra Cup kicked off the second half of its inaugural season, with two races that left the thousands of spectators in awe. Quebecker Olivier Bédard won Saturday's race, which started on a dry track but ended in the rain, while on Sunday, Stefan Rzadzinski claimed victory.**

Benefiting from the Nissan Micra's exceptional driving ability with one of the best turning radiuses, the twenty-six entered drivers completed the challenge of this difficult temporary urban track with panache.

As of the practice session on Friday, the Albertan Stefan Rzadzinski demonstrated his weekend desires by earning the fastest lap time. He repeated this again the following day during qualifying, claiming pole position by a tenth of a second ahead of Antoine Bessette. A novice in this series, the former Formula Atlantic star driver showed that he hasn't lost his touch and remained among the head of the pack throughout the entire weekend.

Olivier Bédard, the Nissan GT Academy drivers Thanaroj Thanasitnikate and Abhinay Bikkani, and Valérie Chiasson completed the Top 6 in a qualifying session that also highlighted Elvis Stojko's series debut, as the world champion figure skater claimed eighteenth place.

Starting on a dry track, Saturday's race saw Stefan Rzadzinski set the tone during the first laps, however, without being able to

create a big enough gap, he could not escape the charging Bédard, Thanasitnikate and Bessette. This was evidenced on the last lap, when Rzadzinski went slightly wide on turn 1, allowing Bédard to squeeze by and claim his third victory of the season. Rzadzinski and Thanasitnikate completed the podium, with all three finishing within eight-tenths of a second. Antoine Bessette finished fourth ahead of Valérie Chiasson who was able to hold off Jean-Michelle Isabelle, Abhinay Bikkani and Marc-Antoine Demers' attempts to pass. Valérie Limoges and Simon Dion-Viens finished in ninth and tenth places, respectively... After a great start, Elvis Stojko saw his race end prematurely seven minutes from the finish after his made contact with the tire wall.

Held on Sunday, the second race was interrupted twice as a result of collisions in the peloton. Spectators were once again treated to excellent battles at the head of the pack, as talented drivers combined with the high quality Nissan Micras to provide a great show! Stefan Rzadzinski won the race but the final results were delayed during the post-race technical inspection. After an investigation by officials, the victory stood. The Edmonton driver finish first, in front of Olivier Bédard, Thanaroj Thanasitnikate and Antoine Bessette, who had earned the pole position but struggled at the start.

Jean-Michel Isabelle finished in fifth, ahead of Kevin King, who also earned his first Top 6 and honorary title of top Trois-Rivières driver. Abhinay Bikkani was seventh followed by Valérie Limoges, Paul Dargis and Valérie Chiasson, who was battling with Antoine Bessette before falling victim to a collision with Abhinay Bikkani two laps prior to the finish... Also notable were Elvis Stojko's magnificent performances, finishing eleventh in his second race ever, as well as that of Yves Aubé who finished as the top novice driver.

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](#)



**UPDATE REGARDING RACE 2!!!**

\* Stefan Rzadzinski penalized of 5 positions (jump start). Reclassified 6<sup>th</sup>.  
\* Abhinay Bikkani penalized of 5 positions for avoidable contact. Reclassified 12<sup>th</sup>.

# IN THE MICRA CUP WORLD



## ÉRIC SALVAIL ON TRACK AT GP3R!

TV host Éric Salvail, from the popular show En Mode Salvail airing on V Télé, was the guest of Nissan Canada at the Grand Prix de Trois-Rivières. Besides being in the paddock to support the drivers of the series, he presented the trophies to the winners of Saturday's race, before joining Alexandre Tagliani on track! Éric Salvail had the pleasure of being Tag's passenger for a few hot laps in a Nissan Maxima – a fun nod to the Micra TV spot featuring them both, currently on air in Quebec.



## LES AMIS DU GP3R HONOR OLIVIER BÉDARD

Every year, Les Amis du Grand Prix de Trois-Rivières' gives a \$4,000 prize to a promising young driver to help with their motorsport career. This year, Olivier Bédard, driver of the Nissan Micra No. 96, received this prestigious honour for the forty-sixth edition of the GP3R. Last year, Kevin King, who also races in the Nissan Micra Cup series, was the recipient of this prize.

## PERRY PERFORMANCE LEADS THE TEAM STANDINGS

The Nissan Micra Cup is dedicated to the teams who have chosen to nominate more than one driver for their race car. In this standings, competition is at the highest level! After eight races completed, Perry Performance team (No.86) is leading, in front of BDMS Racing (No.29), Nissan Trois-Rivières (No.88), Total Canada (No.220), Albi Nissan Blainville (No.572) and Albi Nissan Île-Perrot (No.61).



## THE FANS MEET THE DRIVERS...

Spectators had the chance to meet all the drivers from the Nissan Micra Cup series during the autograph session held in the paddock on Saturday morning. This was a wonderful occasion for racing fans of all ages to get to know the drivers of this series, who are new to this track.



## MICRA'S SMALL CIRCLE AGILITY

Micra Cup drivers have the unique pleasure of driving a car with an exceptionally small turning circle, which is essential as they power through the sharp turns at the Circuit Trois-Rivières! The Nissan Micra's agility on both the race track and the road is owed largely to its small turning radius. At only 4.65 metres, the Micra has the second-best turning radius in Canada, and this is a result of the rack and pinion steering being modified especially for the Canadian Market. The small turning radius, matched with excellent all-round visibility, electric power steering and a power to weight ratio that surprises, make it easy to maneuver and park in tight spaces.



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## 2...3 QUESTIONS FOR... **ELVIS STOJKO**

As a champion skater, Elvis Stojko is used to competing at the highest level. This experience was invaluable when he entered the Mexican Rotax Karting championship a few years ago, which is where he developed his racing skills. The Trois-Rivières Grand-Prix was his first ever road racing event. Here is what he had to say about his Nissan Micra Cup series debut.

### **What do you think of the Nissan Micra Cup?**

It is awesome! I'm the owner of a Nissan Sentra and Titan and I learned about the series through my Nissan dealer in Ontario. They know about my karting experience and told me they wanted me to be involved. The opportunity was fun and exciting so I expressed my interest to participate and I'm happy to be here with the Albi Nissan team.

**You have a good background in racing with the Mexican karting championship. I imagine it was very different for you to drive in the Nissan Micra Cup series?**

Yes, it is very, very different. Just the power and the way it handles, it has a lot less torque than a shifter kart, so I had to adapt. As a figure skater I had to master the slides, and in a race car you need to avoid them. The Nissan Micra is all about keeping the momentum, carrying a lot of entry speed and getting back on the throttle very quickly. Also, with the differential, if the wheels are not down, it slides a lot so you lose grip. This is what I have to figure out because it's so different from what I usually drive. Regarding the racing lines, it is similar, you have to adjust depending on the track you are in. It's now a matter of getting some more experience with this car.

### **Any chance we'll see you drive professionally soon?**

I would love to one day, for sure. And to achieve that, I need to get some more racing experience.



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# POSTCARD



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### **NEXT EVENT: AUTODROME ST-EUSTACHE!**

The fifth event of the Nissan Micra Cup will be held on August 15<sup>th</sup> on the road course of the Autodrome St-Eustache, north of Montreal. It will be the only event where practice, qualifying and both races (rounds nine and ten) will be presented on the same day. A completely new challenge for the drivers and an action packed day for the fans. Don't miss the action!



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## TROIS-RIVIÈRES RACE 7 AND 8 RESULTS

### PRACTICE SESSION

1) Stefan Rzdzinski	No.69
2) Antoine Bessette	No.572
3) Olivier Bédard	No.96
4) Abhinay Bikkani	No.3
5) Valérie Chiasson	No.26
6) Simon Dion-Viens	No.23
7) Valérie Limoges	No.4
8) J.Bélanger / P.Dargis	No.29
9) Thanaraj Thanasitnikate	No.2
10) Kevin King	No.40
11) Marc-André Bergeron	No.88
12) Marc-Antoine Demers	No.422
13) Olivier Pelletier	No.5
14) Metod Topolnik	No.78
15) Jean-Michel Isabelle	No.86
16) Frédéric Bernier	No.28
17) Mario Berthiaume	No.7
18) Elvis Stojko	No.61
19) Mark Hacking	No.24
20) Yves Aubé	No.17
21) J.Boudreault / C.Nadeau	No.220
22) Martin Husar	No.11
23) Chris Sahakian	No.9
24) Alex Habrich	No.75
25) Ashley Sahakian	No.77
26) Nicolas Touchette	No.55

### QUALIFICATION

1) Stefan Rzdzinski	No.69
2) Antoine Bessette	No.572
3) Olivier Bédard	No.96
4) Thanaraj Thanasitnikate	No.2
5) Abhinay Bikkani	No.3
6) Valérie Chiasson	No.26
7) Jean-Michel Isabelle	No.86
8) Marc-Antoine Demers	No.422
9) Valérie Limoges	No.4
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20) Nicolas Touchette	No.55
21) Yves Aubé	No.17
22) Martin Husar	No.11
23) Mark Hacking	No.24
24) Chris Sahakian	No.9
25) Alex Habrich	No.75
26) Ashley Sahakian	No.77

### RACE 1

1) Olivier Bédard	22 laps
2) Stefan Rzdzinski	-0.512
3) Thanaraj Thanasitnikate	-0.811
4) Antoine Bessette	-2.239
5) Valérie Chiasson	-8.644
6) Jean-Michel Isabelle	-8.878
7) Abhinay Bikkani	-9.322
8) Marc-Antoine Demers	-14.193
9) Valérie Limoges	-19.138
10) Simon Dion-Viens	-19.328
11) Carl Nadeau	-33.955
12) Olivier Pelletier	-36.896
13) Jacques Bélanger	-38.076
14) Frédéric Bernier	-41.426
15) Marc-André Bergeron	-49.731
16) Nicolas Touchette	-57.943
17) Mario Berthiaume	-58.471
18) Yves Aubé	-1:06.040
19) Chris Sahakian	-1:06.837
20) Mark Hacking	-1:08.504
21) Martin Husar	-1:14.149
22) Alex Habrich	-1 lap
23) Ashley Sahakian	-1 lap
24) Kevin King	-5 laps
25) Elvis Stojko	-6 laps
26) Metod Topolnik	-9 laps

### RACE 2

1) Olivier Bédard	10 laps
2) Thanaraj Thanasitnikate	-0.484
3) Antoine Bessette	-0.973
4) Jean-Michel Isabelle	-1.621
5) Kevin King	-4.632
6) Stefan Rzdzinski	Penalty
7) Valérie Limoges	-9.204
8) Paul Dargis	-11.412
9) Valérie Chiasson	-12.120
10) Elvis Stojko	-13.205
11) Yves Aubé	-18.331
12) Abhinay Bikkani	Penalty
13) Mario Berthiaume	-18.806
14) Mark Hacking	-20.034
15) Frédéric Bernier	-22.112
16) Chris Sahakian	-22.133
17) Ashley Sahakian	-23.285
18) Martin Husar	-23.892
19) Jeff Boudreault	-24.335
20) Alex Habrich	-20.033
21) Olivier Pelletier	-2 laps
22) Simon Dion-Viens	-3 laps
23) Nicolas Touchette	-5 laps
24) Metod Topolnik	-8 laps
25) Marc-André Bergeron	-10 laps
26) Marc-Antoine Demers	-10 laps

### DRIVERS STANDINGS

1) Olivier Bédard	284 points	18) Paul Dargis	44 points
1) Thanaraj Thanasitnikate	284 points	19) Yves Aubé	39 points
3) Stefan Rzdzinski	238 points	20) Nicolas Touchette	34 points
4) Abhinay Bikkani	182 points	20) Chris Sahakian	34 points
5) Valérie Chiasson	159 points	22) Pierre Clavet	30 points
6) Valérie Limoges	125 points	23) Mario Berthiaume	26 points
7) Jean-Michel Isabelle	94 points	24) Martin Husar	22 points
8) Marc-Antoine Demers	84 points	25) Louis-Philippe Montour	21 points
9) Metod Topolnik	83 points	26) Alex Habrich	20 points
10) Marc-André Bergeron	79 points	27) Wayne Marchand	17 points
11) Olivier Pelletier	77 points	28) Benoît Gagnon	16 points
12) Kevin King	70 points	29) Jeff Boudreault	15 points
13) Jacques Bélanger	69 points	29) Martin Gray	15 points
14) Antoine Bessette	62 points	31) Elvis Stojko	14 points
15) Frédéric Bernier	58 points	32) Carl Wener	12 points
15) Carl Nadeau	58 points	33) Claude Leclerc	11 points
17) Richard Spénard	48 points	34) Ashley Sahakian	9 points

