



Innovation that excites

nismo



MICRA CUP MAGAZINE



ROUND 1

CALABOGIE MOTORSPORTS PARK
MAY 13, 14, 15

**THE SEASON STARTS
IN ONTARIO!**





Innovation
that excites

nismo



KEVIN KING AND XAVIER COUPAL SHARE VICTORIES IN CALABOGIE

- Nissan Micra Cup drivers overcame rain and cold to put on a spectacular show at Calabogie Motorsports Park for 2016 season opener -

The Nissan Micra Cup officially started its 2016 season this past weekend at Ontario's Calabogie Motorsports Park. An event dampened by difficult weather conditions saw rain, wind and unseasonably cold temperatures challenge the drivers. At the wheel of their fun-to-drive, agile and practically stock Nissan Micra S cars, the drivers put on an exciting show during both races this past weekend, with victories going to Kevin King and Xavier Coupal.

Nic Hammann, a young American driver from the Nissan GT Academy team, earned the pole position for Saturday's race under heavy rain conditions and less than twenty-four hours after first test-driving his Nissan Micra on the Calabogie track. Behind him were Kevin King, of the Sorel-Tracy Nissan team, the Albi Nissan team drivers, Xavier Coupal and 2015 champion Olivier Bédard,

Stefan Rzdzinski of Alberta (Pneus Touchette team) and the Quebecker Metod Topolnik (Azure Racing team).

Held on Saturday afternoon on a track that continued to dry as the laps went on, the first race of the 2016 Nissan Micra Cup included more than twenty-five drivers and was quickly controlled by Quebecker Kevin King. King managed to hold off constant pressure from Xavier Coupal, Olivier Bédard and Nic Hammann, as the four remained a pack for the duration of the race, finishing within three seconds of each other. Bédard was eventually disqualified when his Micra did not meet the minimum weight requirements.

Stefan Rzdzinski therefore completed the top four, ahead of Metod Topolnik, who fought off pressure from veteran drivers Jacques Bélanger and Normand Boyer, both new to the series. Another great battle took place for eighth place, which was eventually granted to Valérie Limoges, who finished ahead of Valérie Chiasson. Nicolas Touchette was tenth and Ashley Sahakian earned the top spot amongst the novice drivers.

At Sunday's race, Nic Hammann once again started in pole position but a multi-car collision at the first turn eliminated several favourites, including Hammann, Bédard, King and Chiasson. All drivers are unharmed. The then shortened race was dominated and won by Xavier Coupal, ahead of Stefan Rzdzinski and Jacques Bélanger. Valérie Limoges was able to overtake Marc-Antoine Demers for fourth place.

For more information on the Nissan Micra Cup, please go to the website 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 WORLD OF THE MICRA CUP



LUCKY «13» FOR BRIAN MAKSE!

He liked his 2015 experience so much that he now developed a program to compete in the 2016 season! Brian Makse, automotive journalist for Ignition Canadian Auto Handbook had the chance last year to drive the #24 media car for a racing weekend. This year, he comes back in full force in the series with "his" Micra sporting the colours of the Guelph & Waterloo Nissan dealership: "It is an amazing opportunity to have my own racing team. I will have even more self-confidence now that it's my own Micra, it will be with my set ups. It will also be my team, so I'm in control now". Brian took the wheel of his No.13 Micra Friday, May 13th and finished his first race in 13th position! In the second race he has crossed the finish-line in an impressive seventh place.



AN AMERICAN AIMING FOR THE 2016 TITLE

The young American Nic Hammann, 22 years old, will be racing this season with Nissan GT Academy team. Recipient of the 2014 GT Academy in the United States, Hammann had the chance to drive in professional series such as Blancpain GT Endurance or the SCCA World Challenge with Nissan GT-R and 370Z. Even if he has to learn the Canadian tracks, there's no doubt that he will be a contender for the win. For his debut, he has clinched two pole positions and a podium finish.

2016 SCORING METHODOLOGY

In total, 23 drivers are entered for the first event of the 2016 race calendar, which is a promising number given the fact that this is not one of the five mandatory events of the season.

The mandatory events for points toward the championship are:

- St-Eustache (June 19)
- Canadian Tire Mosport Park (July 8-10)
- Circuit Mont-Tremblant (July 22-24)
- Trois-Rivières (August 12-14)
- Canadian Tire Motorsport Park (September 2-4)

The 2016 sporting rules and regulations are as follows:

- Those who participate in all five mandatory weekends = scores the twelve best results for their final score of the season (16 races).
- Those who participate in four mandatory weekends = scores the eleven best results for their final score of the season.
- Those who participate in only three mandatory weekends = scores the ten best results for their final score of the season.



“EXTRA DUTY” HAULER FOR THE 2016 SEASON

The Micra Cup organization has a new vehicle, it's also the largest in the Nissan lineup – the 2016 Nissan TITAN XD full-size pickup truck, launched earlier this year. Based on Nissan's durable, proven commercial vehicle chassis and powered by a Cummins® 5.0L V8 Turbo Diesel engine, the Nissan TITAN XD (“Extra Duty”) helps the Micra Cup organization to tow its 7,700 lb trailer effortlessly, a weight well below the XD Platinum

Reserve's maximum towing capacity of 10,608 lbs... Micra Cup officials have no problem piloting the 20-foot long TITAN XD and 24-foot long trailer through the busy paddocks and on a variation of roads thanks to Integrated Trailer Brake Controller, Trailer Sway Control, Tow/Haul Mode with Downhill Speed Control and a Trailer Light Check system that allows one-person hook-up operation – checking turn signals, brake lights and running/clearance lights from inside the TITAN XD cab.

NEXT RACE: THE SPRING CLASSIC AT CIRCUIT MONT-TREMBLANT

After the first successful racing weekend at Calabogie Motorsports Park, it is on the 28th and 29th of May in Québec, at Circuit Mont-Tremblant that the drivers will be competing their next two races. For many of the drivers, it is a homecoming to be racing during the Spring Classic, since it was the first event that had kicked off the 2015 Nissan Micra Cup season. Thai driver Thanaroj Thanasititkate from GT Academy had won both races. Make sure to tune in on our social media platforms to follow all the action of the next Nissan Micra Cup event!



Innovation that excites

nismo



2...3 QUESTIONS FOR...

JACQUES DESHAIES

Ahead of the first race of the year, Jacques Deshaies, promoter of the Nissan Micra Cup, reflects on the season ahead.

The second season has just started, what is the sentiment in the Micra Cup Organization?

The Micra Cup organization is extremely enthusiastic about the second season. Not only is it the drivers who gained experience on the track, we also learned a lot last year during the first season as facilitators of a major motorsport series. The series is in excellent shape, and, as organizers, we are well prepared. In the past few weeks, we even found ourselves ahead of schedule in regards to preparations!

On a personal note, I am happy to see that the people who were involved last year are back, all our officials wanted to stay involved with the Nissan Micra Cup. As for the drivers, I noticed that they are more confident overall. The drivers know they will have fun in the series even if some are apprehensive of the new tracks - Calabogie and Mosport.

Calabogie is the longest track in Canada, with 20 turns, measures 40 feet wide, and features a 2,000 ft.-long straightaway. Canadian Tire Motorsport



Park (CTMP) - a.k.a. "Mosport" for industry veterans like me - has a rich history in Canadian motorsport having hosted the first Canadian Grand Prix in 1967. Today, CTMP boasts 10 high-speed, difficult corners, making it one of the most challenging race tracks in North America. I'm thrilled to have these two exciting tracks on the 2016 race calendar and can't wait to see how our drivers perform on them.

What do you expect on track? Races as competitive as last year?

Probably even more competitive, because the intense level of competition hasn't changed - on the contrary! As I said before, most of the drivers have more experience, this means that last year's rookie drivers will feel more comfortable aiming for the front of the pack. For example, a driver like Frédéric Bernier, from Québec, spent the entire winter re-watching and studying his racing footage from last year because he wants to succeed his previous results no matter what.

Olivier Bédard, who is defending his title, is the

favourite, but highly-capable drivers like Kevin King or veteran Jacques Bélanger could surprise us all. We can't forget the talented young driver from Alberta, Stefan Rzdzinski, whose ambition to win is exceptional. Then there is Nic Hammann, who already has great experience with Nismo in several global series... although I expect he already understands that it's not that easy to win in the Nissan Micra Cup! That's what's magical about the Micras, the cars are almost stock, it's the drivers who make the difference, and as we can see there is no lack of talent in the series.

At the next race in Mont-Tremblant, we will see young karting drivers making their debut. Is this gratifying for you?

Absolutely! One of the goals of the Nissan Micra Cup is to create a bridge between karting and professional series. Therefore, to see that the series attracts renowned drivers with long, illustrious careers like Richard Spénard, Bertrand Godin, Xavier Coupal and others is very significant. On the other hand, the fact that the Albi Nissan Team is entering drivers who are only 15-16 years-old, and still evolving in karting, is a bonus. These young drivers - at least two of them - took part in karting world championships, which is no small feat for sure. But it was also interesting to see them driving their first laps on the track during the spring testing, because they were scared to start in a closed car!

What is also encouraging is the consistent message being conveyed to young drivers- that there is a place for them in Nissan Micra Cup, that it can be their launch pad into motorsports. I do not want to see the same drivers staying 25 years in the Nissan Micra Cup. Every year there has to be new drivers, as is this case this season.



STAY CONNECTED WITH THE NISSAN MICRA CUP!



Follow us on Facebook:
[Coupe Nissan Micra Cup](#)



Follow the race as it unfold on Twitter:
[@micracup](#)

Visit our website:
nissan.ca/micracup



Innovation that excites

POSTCARD



nismo





Innovation
that excites

nismo



CALABOGIE MOTORSPORTS PARK RACE 1 AND 2 RESULTS

QUALIFICATION RACE 1

1) Nic Hammann	No.2
2) Kevin King	No.40
3) Xavier Coupal	No.572
4) Olivier Bédard	No.1
5) Stefan Rzdzinski	No.69
6) Metod Topolnik	No.78
7) Marc-Antoine Demers	No.422
8) Normand Boyer	No.11
9) Stéfan Gauthier	No.96
10) Jacques Bélanger	No.29
11) Chris Sahakian	No.9
12) Valérie Chiasson	No.26
13) Carl Wener	No.86
14) Valérie Limoges	No.4
15) Nicolas Touchette	No.55
16) David Pratte	No.24
17) Frédéric Bernier	No.28
18) Kirk Robinson	No.220
19) Peter Dyck	No.73
20) Yves Aubé	No.17
21) Brian Makse	No.13
22) Alex Habrich	No.75
23) Ashley Sahakian	No.77
24) Emily Atkins	No.23
DNS) Mario Berthiaume	No.7

QUALIFICATION RACE 2

1) Nic Hammann	No.2
2) Xavier Coupal	No.572
3) Stefan Rzdzinski	No.69
4) Olivier Bédard	No.1
5) Kevin King	No.40
6) Metod Topolnik	No.78
7) Stéfan Gauthier	No.96
8) Valérie Limoges	No.4
9) Marc-Antoine Demers	No.422
10) David Pratte	No.24
11) Valérie Chiasson	No.26
12) Chris Sahakian	No.9
13) Jacques Bélanger	No.29
14) Kirk Robinson	No.220
15) Normand Boyer	No.11
16) Frédéric Bernier	No.28
17) Nicolas Touchette	No.55
18) Brian Makse	No.13
19) Mario Berthiaume	No.7
20) Yves Aubé	No.17
21) Alex Habrich	No.75
22) Emily Atkins	No.23
23) Ashley Sahakian	No.77
EXC) Peter Dyck	No.73
DNS) Carl Wener	No.86

RACE 1

1) Kevin King	12 laps
2) Xavier Coupal	-1.228
3) Nic Hammann	-3.206
4) Stefan Rzdzinski	-20.351
5) Metod Topolnik	-22.827
6) Jacques Bélanger	-23.132
7) Normand Boyer	-23.699
8) Valérie Limoges	-33.175
9) Valérie Chiasson	-36.492
10) Nicolas Touchette	-45.483
11) Kirk Robinson	-47.424
12) Chris Sahakian	-53.929
13) Brian Makse	-1:11.431
14) Peter Dyck	-1:11.832
15) Alex Habrich	-1:19.891
16) Mario Berthiaume	-1:25.209
17) Emily Atkins	-1:41.586
18) Ashley Sahakian	-1:42.198
DNF) Carl Wener	-1 lap
20) Stéfan Gauthier	-1 lap
21) Yves Aubé	-1 lap
DNF) Marc-Antoine Demers	-3 laps
DNF) Frédéric Bernier	-7 laps
DNF) David Pratte	-8 laps
EXC) Olivier Bédard	12 laps

RACE 2

1) Xavier Coupal	12 laps
2) Stefan Rzdzinski	-0.961
3) Jacques Bélanger	-12.281
4) Valérie Limoges	-17.226
5) Marc-Antoine Demers	-17.558
6) Kirk Robinson	-22.166
7) Brian Makse	-29.797
8) Mario Berthiaume	-30.354
9) Nicolas Touchette	-30.746
10) David Pratte	-32.127
11) Yves Aubé	-34.595
12) Alex Habrich	-43.882
13) Metod Topolnik	-51.128
14) Stéfan Gauthier	-53.159
15) Peter Dyck	-1:06.052
16) Emily Atkins	-1:37.678
DNF) Normand Boyer	-11 laps
DNF) Valérie Chiasson	-11 laps
DNF) Kevin King	-12 laps
DNF) Olivier Bédard	-12 laps
DNF) Nic Hammann	-12 laps
DNF) Chris Sahakian	-12 laps
DNF) Frédéric Bernier	-12 laps
DNS) Carl Wener	-----
DNS) Ashley Sahakian	-----

DRIVERS STANDINGS

1) Xavier Coupal	76 points	13) Mario Berthiaume	21 points
2) Stefan Rzdzinski	66 points	14) Valérie Chiasson	19 points
3) Jacques Bélanger	52 points	15) Alex Habrich	16 points
4) Kevin King	45 points	16) Yves Aubé	15 points
5) Valérie Limoges	44 points	17) Peter Dyck	14 points
6) Nic Hammann	40 points	18) Chris Sahakian	12 points
7) Metod Topolnik	33 points	19) Stéfan Gauthier (recrue)	11 points
8) Kirk Robinson	30 points	20) Ashley Sahakian (recrue)	4 points
9) Marc-Antoine Demers	26 points	20) Frédéric Bernier	4 points
9) Brian Makse	26 points	22) Carl Wener	3 points
9) Nicolas Touchette	26 points	22) Olivier Bédard	3 points
12) Normand Boyer	24 points		

