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MICRA CUP MAGAZINE



ROUND 2

CIRCUIT MONT-TREBLANT
MAY 27, 28, 29

**ACTION IN THE
LAURENTIANS!**





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COUPAL AND KING WIN TWO SPECTACULAR RACES AT MONT-TREMBLANT

- In warm temperatures, the Nissan Micra Cup made its return to the Circuit Mont-Tremblant with victories for Xavier Coupal and Kevin King -

The Nissan Micra Cup held its third and fourth races of the 2016 season as part of the Spring Classic at the Circuit Mont-Tremblant this past weekend. It was an action-packed two days in summer-like temperatures which resulted in another win for Xavier Coupal on Saturday, and one for Kevin King on Sunday.

Second in the championship after the first event, Albertan Stefan Rzdazinski (Pneus Touchette) showed his determination right away as he earned pole position heading into Saturday's race. Rzdazinski was just ahead of series leader, Xavier Coupal (Albi Nissan) - who was no less than eight-tenths of a second ahead of third place - 2015 champion Olivier Bédard (Albi Nissan). Rzdazinski and Coupal's intense performances in the series' identical and practically stock Micra S's were a highlight for all spectators.

The start of the first race took place under extreme heat on Saturday afternoon and a battle for the victory quickly took shape

between four drivers. The lead changed hands many times between Rzdazinski, Bédard, Coupal and Kevin King who is the winner of the first round of the season. In the end, King won with a slim two-tenths of a second lead over Coupal and half a second over Rzdazinski.

However, after reviewing on-board footage, series officials stated that both King and Rzdazinski were guilty of making avoidable contact during the last lap. King received a 35-second penalty and Rzdazinski a 30-second penalty on their overall race times, dropping them far down the final standings. Xavier Coupal was eventually declared victor ahead of Valérie Limoges, giving the Quebecker his second consecutive win.

Valérie Limoges was never able to take the lead during the 30 minutes of competition, but she nevertheless remained just behind the leaders throughout the entire duration. Finishing less than a second behind Coupal, her first podium of the season was well-deserved. Along the way, she passed Marc-Antoine Demers, Normand Boyer and Olivier Bédard, who lost several places in the last lap as the victim of a collision. Chris Sahakian completed the Top 6 ahead of Yves Aubé, Pierre Clavet, Frédéric Bernier and Brian Makse.

The following day, Olivier Bédard had pole position ahead of Stefan Rzdazinski, but it was Kevin King, starting in third, who quickly challenged Bédard for the victory. The two former karting teammates provided a tight and respectable battle right until the end, which saw King earn his second win of the season. Bédard finished seventh-tenths of a second behind him, followed by Rzdazinski and Coupal, who has been penalized by series officials after the race and dropped to seventh place which now slightly closes the gap in the drivers' championship. Another good battle occurred between Metod Topolnik and Valérie Limoges, as both took advantage of the Micra's agility at every turn in hopes of passing one another. Topolnik eventually finished fourth ahead of Limoges, Marc-Antoine Demers, Xavier Coupal, Pierre Clavet, Chris Sahakian and Normand Boyer.

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



A NEW CAUSE FOR METOD TOPOLNIK THIS SEASON

The driver of the No. 78 Nissan Micra Cup car, Metod Topolnik, was encouraging "Dans la Rue" last season. This year, he chose to support Autism. "It is very important that people understand this cause," said Metod. "Kids are misunderstood, and there is not a lot of support from the government for their families." It is the families that he wants to help: "It is important to show them that they are supported." One of the goals of the German driver is to bring autistic kids and their families at the track to make sure they have an unforgettable experience by seeing the Nissan Micra Cup races.

NEW STARTING RULES

After Sunday's accident during the first lap at Calabogie Motorsport Park that left seven drivers unable to finish the race two weeks ago, Nissan Micra Cup officials have modified the start procedure. From now on, the drivers cannot overtake, nor pull-out before crossing the start marshal. In addition, if the temperature is below 10 degrees, 2 formation laps behind the pace car will be observed, to give a chance for the tires to warm up properly. A situation that wasn't going to happen at the Spring Classic in Mont-Tremblant since the average weather every day was 25 degrees.

NEXT RACE: JUNE 19 AT AUTODROME ST-EUSTACHE

Popular for its oval races, Autodrome St-Eustache has a 2 km road course on which will be seen the fifth and sixth races of the 2016 season Sunday, June 19. A compact program of two races in the same day, already tested with success during the series' first time in St-Eustache last year. Oliver Bédard had won the two races, thus gaining the lead in the championship's standing, paving the way for his 2015 title.



NORMAND BOYER, MONT-TREMBLANT'S FAVOURITE AT THE SPRING CLASSIC!

Valerie Chiasson, Mont-Tremblant based driver, was absent this weekend (working obligation projects at the Formula 1 Grand Prix de Monaco), the only other driver of the region is also a newcomer to the series. However, Normand Boyer, who registered only a few days before the start of the season in Calabogie, cannot be considered a rookie! The veteran from St-Agathe-des-Monts has indeed obtained several titles and victories in national Canadian series since the 1980's. His most recent victory goes back to 2006 in the Civic Championship. So, why a comeback after 10 years? "This is a fair monotype series, same cars, same settings, same tires. I love it. This is also a way to prepare the future because I would love for my son to race in this series next year," said Boyer.

FRONT AND REAR STABILIZER BAR

Sold in more than 160 countries all over the world, the Canadian Nissan Micra has been specifically tailored for Canada and its roads. The Canadian Nissan Micra is the only Micra in the world to be equipped with both front and rear stabilizer bars. Front and rear sway bars



were specially tuned and added to tighten handling, and the rack and pinion steering was further adjusted to improve the turning radius. As a result, Micra is an exceptionally agile urban vehicle, something that Canadians appreciate during their daily commute in traffic, when trying to find a parking spot, or even when trying to pass a fellow competitor through the Esses at Circuit Mont-Tremblant! The front and rear stabilizer bars on Micra, paired with the NISMO Suspension kit, are also beneficial for the Nissan Micra Cup drivers as they work through the numerous turns they will face in the 2016 season, including more than 20 hours on some of the finest circuits in the provinces of Quebec and Ontario.



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2...3 QUESTIONS TO... **XAVIER COUPAL**

It started with karting, then Formula driver (Formula 1600), Xavier Coupal made some promising debuts in Canadian NASCAR three years ago. But for Jacques Villeneuve's cousin, the adventure came to an abrupt end after a spectacular accident at the last lap of the Grand Prix de Trois-Rivières two years ago. Now, he's back on the track again. The first chapter in Xavier's comeback story starts with the Nissan Micra Cup and the Albi Nissan team. A return well noticed as he took over the championship right away.

Xavier, after the sudden end of your journey in NASCAR two years ago, we thought you put an end to your racing career. Is it fair to say that the Nissan Micra Cup is allowing you to launch it again?

Actually, it wasn't a choice to put my racing career on the side. I didn't have any insurance for the NASCAR race during the Grand Prix de Trois-Rivières, so what really put a pause



on my career was the big debt I had to pay for that car that was completely destroyed. And then came along the opportunity to drive in the Nissan Micra Cup. It is a little bit like a rebirth for me in this highly popular and important series. So in some ways, yes it is a comeback, but a very enthusiastic one at that. I am very happy!

Did you think you were going to be leading the championship and already have a victory under your belt after the first racing weekend?

As a driver, the goal is always to win, so to be leading the championship is the main intention. However, I must say that the incident of the Sunday's race at Calabogie helped me. If I had to summarize the beginning of my

season in the Nissan Micra Cup, I will simply say "mission accomplished" for now. But the season is not over yet.

What do you like about the series?

Participating in a championship with cars that are almost stock, that are just out of the dealership and the exact same for all drivers. Anyone can buy those little cars. I am trying to understand how these cars, at the price they are at, can endure what we do to them on the track! Engines are stock and we are always pushing them to the limit. Honestly, I think the reliability of the Micra is incredible. Furthermore, it is very fun to drive, so I recommend this to any teenager who wants to start racing today, it is the perfect series.



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CIRCUIT MONT-TREMBLANT RACE 3 AND 4 RESULTS

QUALIFICATION RACE 1

1) Stefan Rzdziński	No.69
2) Xavier Coupal	No.572
3) Olivier Bédard	No.1
4) Kevin King	No.40
5) Metod Topolnik	No.78
6) Jacques Bélanger	No.29
7) Valérie Limoges	No.4
8) Marc-Antoine Demers	No.422
9) Carl Nadeau	No.220
10) Normand Boyer	No.11
11) Yves Aubé	No.17
12) Brian Makse	No.13
13) Chris Sahakian	No.9
14) Pierre Clavet	No.86
15) Frédéric Bernier	No.28
16) Peter Dyck	No.73
17) Alex Habrich	No.75
18) Ashley Sahakian	No.77
19) Craig Willoughby	No.00
DNS) Enrico Sasso	No.27

QUALIFICATION RACE 2

1) Olivier Bédard	No.1
2) Stefan Rzdziński	No.69
3) Kevin King	No.40
4) Metod Topolnik	No.78
5) Xavier Coupal	No.572
6) Marc-Antoine Demers	No.422
7) Valérie Limoges	No.4
8) Normand Boyer	No.11
9) Chris Sahakian	No.9
10) Pierre Clavet	No.86
11) Yves Aubé	No.17
12) Frédéric Bernier	No.28
13) Enrico Sasso	No.27
14) Brian Makse	No.13
15) Carl Nadeau	No.220
16) Peter Dyck	No.73
17) Alex Habrich	No.75
18) Ashley Sahakian	No.77
19) Craig Willoughby	No.00
20) Jacques Bélanger	No.29

RACE 1

1) Xavier Coupal	15 laps
2) Valérie Limoges	-0.663
3) Marc-Antoine Demers	-6.795
4) Normand Boyer	-8.261
5) Olivier Bédard	-10.248
6) Chris Sahakian	-10.397
7) Yves Aubé	-11.093
8) Pierre Clavet	-11.591
9) Frédéric Bernier	-12.189
10) Brian Makse	-14.617
11) Carl Nadeau	-17.712
12) Enrico Sasso	-18.211
13) Alex Habrich	-27.225
14) Peter Dyck	-27.528
15) Ashley Sahakian	-27.924
16) Stefan Rzdziński	-30.222
17) Metod Topolnik	-32.905
18) Kevin King	-34.735
19) Craig Willoughby	No time
DNF) Jacques Bélanger	-6 laps

RACE 2

1) Kevin King	15 laps
2) Olivier Bédard	-0.789
3) Stefan Rzdziński	-3.691
4) Metod Topolnik	-8.763
5) Valérie Limoges	-9.028
6) Marc-Antoine Demers	-24.353
7) Xavier Coupal	-34.093
8) Chris Sahakian	-34.396
9) Pierre Clavet	-35.359
10) Normand Boyer	-35.653
11) Jacques Bélanger	-43.179
12) Frédéric Bernier	-43.618
13) Carl Nadeau	-44.482
14) Brian Makse	-44.921
15) Yves Aubé	-47.298
16) Peter Dyck	-1:11.805
17) Enrico Sasso	-1:12.000
18) Alex Habrich	-1:13.197
19) Ashley Sahakian	-1:37.608
20) Craig Willoughby	- 1 lap

DRIVERS STANDINGS

1) Xavier Coupal	136 points	14) Pierre Clavet	30 points
2) Stefan Rzdziński	105 points	16) Frédéric Bernier	27 points
3) Valérie Limoges	104 points	16) Alex Habrich	27 points
4) Kevin King	90 points	18) Nicolas Touchette	26 points
5) Marc-Antoine Demers	78 points	18) Peter Dyck	26 points
6) Olivier Bédard	65 points	20) Mario Berthiaume	21 points
6) Jacques Bélanger	65 points	21) Valérie Chiasson	19 points
6) Metod Topolnik	65 points	22) Carl Nadeau	18 points
9) Normand Boyer	64 points	23) Ashley Sahakian (recrue)	13 points
10) Chris Sahakian	48 points	23) Enrico Sasso	13 points
11) Brian Makse	45 points	25) Stéfán Gauthier (recrue)	11 points
12) Nic Hammann	40 points	26) Craig Willoughby	6 points
13) Yves Aubé	39 points	27) Carl Wener	3 points
14) Kirk Robinson	30 points		

