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MICRA CUP MAGAZINE



ROUND 4

CANADIAN TIRE MOTORSPORT PARK
JULY 8, 9 10



**PROTOTYPES,
GT CARS...
AND MICRAS!**



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XAVIER COUPAL AND OLIVIER BÉDARD EXCHANGE WINS!

- High intensity races for the series' big debut at Canadian Tire Motorsport Park -

The Nissan Micra Cup held its seventh and eighth races of the 2016 season this weekend at Canadian Tire Motorsport Park, the popular track formerly known as "Mosport" situated not far from Toronto. In typical summertime heat and in front of thousands of spectators on-site for one of the most important motorsport events in Canada (also bringing together the prestigious IMSA SportsCar Endurance series), the Nissan Micra Cup offered the public two spectacular races.

In action for the first time at the fast Canadian Tire Motorsport Park circuit, and only Canadian series at the event, the small and agile Nissan Micras provided excitement for the fans, participants from other series, and members of the American and Canadian media invited by Nissan Canada. The 26 competing drivers provided two intense races with non-stop action as they battled for victory.

During the first race, Kevin King started in pole position, but was passed on the first turn by Xavier Coupal, while 2015 champion Olivier Bédard followed by only a few one-hundredths of a second. This trio of drivers was followed very closely behind by Albertan Stefan Rzadzinski, American Nic Hammann of the Nismo GT Academy Team, and Valérie Limoges who was once again consistent near the front of the pack.

These six drivers hit the mid-way point of the race separated by less than half a second, and behind them, a second group of six drivers led by Marc-Antoine Demers and Canadian Touring Car champion Karl Wittmer, who made his Nissan Micra Cup debut this weekend, provided another intense battle. Top ranked Ontarian, Brian Makse, also performed well in the first race, leading a group of five drivers who were fighting in the middle of the pack.

In the end, Kevin King crossed the finish line first but received a penalty from the officials for putting all four of his wheels off the track as he passed Coupal on the last lap. Xavier Coupal was therefore declared the winner, ahead of his teammate Olivier Bédard and Stefan Rzadzinski. Nic Hammann and Valérie Limoges completed the top five.

Once again under a blaring sun, the second race, on Sunday afternoon, was just as exciting. At the front of the pack, a quick battle developed between King, Coupal, and Bédard. Qualifying in pole position, Olivier Bédard was passed by Kevin King on the first lap but Bédard eventually reclaimed the lead to take his second win of the season. King and Coupal finished on his heels, as Marc-Antoine Demers won another heated battle for fourth place in front of Nicolas Hammann and Stefan Rzadzinski... Normand Boyer finished in seventh spot, ahead of Valérie Limoges, Metod Topolnik and Pierre Clavet. In eleventh, Stéfán Gauthier earned himself a second consecutive victory among the novice drivers.

Mrs. Joann Villeneuve, spouse of late Canadian racing legend Gilles Villeneuve, presented the top three drivers with their trophies on the podium. It was particularly special for Olivier Bédard, winner of the Gilles-Villeneuve Award last year following his championship title.

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



NISSAN MEDIA DAY!

Wednesday before the main weekend race events at Canadian Tire Motorsport Park, Nissan Canada invited around 20 journalists and winner of a Nissan Micra Cup Facebook contest to an exclusive media track day. It took place on the very technical 2.8 km development track right next to the principal circuit. An ideal track for the racing Micras which, even if almost stock, surprised the journalists by their performance, agility and ease of driving. The show of the day was given by Stefan Rzadzinski and 2015 champion Olivier Bédard who gave media guests hot laps. Both drivers took the opportunity to show their racing perspective by having small battles on track.



150 EMPLOYEES AND GUESTS OF NISSAN TAKE PART IN THE PARTY!

150 Nissan employees and guests are part of the party! For its first time ever at CTMP, the Nissan Micra Cup was not only followed by thousands of spectators, but also by approximately 150 Nissan Canada employees and guests. They met with the drivers during a particularly crowded autograph session at lunch time on Sunday, on top of watching the race from the hospitality tent located at the entrance of corner 1. Nissan Canada also planned a group photo of the drivers at the podium for the fans and guests to see, right before the start of the second race.

THE IMPORTANCE OF DRAFTING AT C.T.M.P.

The key to a fast lap on this 3.9 km Ontario circuit has to do with cars drafting one another on track. Drivers have to help each other out, or stick to the opponent in front of them in order to gain more speed, since then the car is cut from the wind, and then the driver has a chance to pass at the end of the long stretch. If a driver loses the draft, it is very difficult to come back from it. Stefan Rzadzinski explains it best, "The draft is super important. It's like a game of chess out there. You have to time it perfectly and be in the right lane at the right time. You're forced to strategize position to go forwards and try not to fall back."

NEXT RACE: BACK TO MONT-TREMBLANT

The next race weekend will be take place July 22-24 and will mark the return of the series at Circuit Mont-Tremblant for the annual Summer Classic. The Laurentian (Québec) track will be the host of the 9th and 10th races for the 2016 championship, which will also mark the start of the second half of the season.



NEW SPONSORS FOR VALÉRIE LIMOGES?

Longueuil's driver Valérie Limoges once again accomplished a very good session at CTMP for Saturday's race. In fact, she experienced an unexpected, banner-sized vehicle modification. Valérie went outside of the track, in the grass, two laps before the end. When driving back on the track, she hit a billboard. A piece of it stuck on the front of her Micra, and stayed there until the finish. The size of the broken billboard was almost the same width as the front of the Micra, and seemed to fall perfectly on her car. Aside from the funny part of this story, it is important to mention that the engine of the driver never overheated despite the fact that there was a billboard blocking the air from going in.



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2...3 QUESTIONS TO... **BRIAN MAKSE**

Automotive journalist Brian Makse is also passionate about speed and racing. After competing as a guest driver in the first two rounds of the Micra Cup at Circuit Mont-Tremblant last year, he did not hesitate to enrol full time in the series this year, with the sponsorship of Waterloo & Guelph Nissan dealers. It's his onboard camera of car #13 which captured all the action of the now famous Calabogie start incident. His video went viral and was seen millions of times, all over the world. At Mosport, we ask him a few questions about his 2016 racing season.

What is your opinion of the first half of the season?

Obviously, we had a very exciting start of the season but from my perspective, the Micra Cup series is a lot more competitive than I thought, and the car is a little more challenging to bring to the limits than I expected.

the drivers watched the video and said I did a great job avoiding the crash. Most of them race around the world but they didn't know about the Nissan Micra Cup and some came to see the car, and ask questions about the series. It was very exciting. I spoke with racing fans and some came to see the Nissan Micras specifically.

How was it to be the Micra Cup representative at Race Fest in Toronto, being showcased along racers that competed in the 24 Hours of Le Mans or won in the Endurance series?

I was a little intimidated... I know some of the drivers and when I sat down at the autograph table, a couple of drivers asked other drivers about me, because they didn't know who I am, and they were saying: «you've got to see Brian's Micra Cup video of Calabogie». So all

What is your goal for the rest of this season?

The same goal that we had for the first half of the season, to perform at our best. We still need to learn more about the car to be able to improve our results. I need to work on some of my driving, I don't think I'm at 100% yet, but soon I think we will be there. We will also start to concentrate on a very good program for next year's Nissan Micra Cup season.



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POSTCARD



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CANADIAN TIRE MOTORSPORT PARK RACE 7 AND 8 RESULTS

QUALIFICATION RACE 1

1) Kevin King	No.40
2) Xavier Coupal	No.572
3) Olivier Bédard	No.1
4) Nic Hammann	No.2
5) Stefan Rzdzinski	No.69
6) Valérie Limoges	No.4
7) Marc-Antoine Demers	No.422
8) Karl Wittmer	No.27
9) Metod Topolnik	No.78
10) Pierre Clavet	No.86
11) Valérie Chiasson	No.26
12) Chris Sahakian	No.9
13) Normand Boyer	No.11
14) Martin Gray	No.8
15) Kirk Robinson	No.220
16) Edward Wong	No.80
17) Neil Vorano	No.23
18) Stéfán Gauthier	No.96
19) Frédéric Bernier	No.28
20) Brian Makse	No.13
21) Mario Berthiaume	No.7
22) Yves Aubé	No.17
23) Peter Dyck	No.73
24) David Booth	No.24
25) Craig Willoughby	No.00
26) Ashley Sahakian	No.27

QUALIFICATION RACE 2

1) Olivier Bédard	No.1
2) Kevin King	No.40
3) Xavier Coupal	No.572
4) Stefan Rzdzinski	No.69
5) Nic Hammann	No.2
6) Valérie Limoges	No.4
7) Marc-Antoine Demers	No.422
8) Karl Wittmer	No.27
9) Pierre Clavet	No.86
10) Normand Boyer	No.11
11) Metod Topolnik	No.78
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24) Frédéric Bernier	No.28
25) Craig Willoughby	No.00
26) Ashley Sahakian	No.27

RACE 1

1) Xavier Coupal	15 laps
2) Olivier Bédard	-2.213
3) Stefan Rzdzinski	-2.480
4) Nick Hammann	-2.571
5) Valérie Limoges	-6.864
6) Marc-Antoine Demers	-12.326
7) Karl Wittmer	-12.850
8) Normand Boyer	-20.114
9) Chris Sahakian	-21.077
10) Valérie Chiasson	-29.469
11) Kevin King	-29.657
12) Stéfán Gauthier	-35.787
13) Mario Berthiaume	-47.236
14) Brian Makse	-47.440
15) Frédéric Bernier	-47.912
16) Yves Aubé	-48.415
17) Peter Dyck	-58.445
18) Edward Wong	-1:10.442
19) Metod Topolnik	-1:17.450
20) Kirk Robinson	-1:31.638
21) Martin Gray	-1:41.254
22) David Booth	-1:42.453
23) Ashley Sahakian	-1 lap
24) Neil Vorano	-7 laps
25) Pierre Clavet	-12 laps
26) Craig Willoughby	-15 laps

RACE 2

1) Olivier Bédard	18 laps
2) Kevin King	-1.227
3) Xavier Coupal	-1.682
4) Nick Hammann	-9.460
5) Marc-Antoine Demers	-9.573
6) Stefan Rzdzinski	-9.864
7) Normand Boyer	-21.370
8) Valérie Limoges	-21.722
9) Metod Topolnik	-22.092
10) Pierre Clavet	-23.677
11) Stéfán Gauthier	-42.757
12) Valérie Chiasson	-43.022
13) Karl Wittmer	-43.675
14) Martin Gray	-43.762
15) Mario Berthiaume	-44.755
16) Frédéric Bernier	-55.140
17) Edward Wong	-1:08.165
18) Chris Sahakian	-1:08.509
19) Brian Makse	-1:11.464
20) Neil Vorano	-1:16.288
21) Yves Aubé	-1:16.495
22) Kirk Robinson	-1:25.896
23) David Booth	-1:42.590
24) Ashley Sahakian	-1 lap
25) Peter Dyck	-12 laps
DNS) Craig Willoughby	-----

DRIVERS STANDINGS

1) Xavier Coupal	242 points	17) Peter Dyck (rookie)	41 points
2) Olivier Bédard	221 points	19) Valérie Chiasson	40 points
3) Kevin King	220 points	20) Jean-Michel Isabelle	38 points
4) Stefan Rzdzinski	215 points	21) Kirk Robinson	35 points
5) Valérie Limoges	192 points	21) Alex Habrich	35 points
6) Marc-Antoine Demers	168 points	23) Stéfán Gauthier (rookie)	32 points
7) Nic Hammann	132 points	24) Karl Wittmer	26 points
8) Normand Boyer	124 points	25) Ashley Sahakian (rookie)	23 points
9) Chris Sahakian	89 points	26) Carl Nadeau	18 points
10) Jacques Bélanger	86 points	27) Bertrand Godin	14 points
11) Metod Topolnik	82 points	27) Craig Willoughby	14 points
12) Yves Aubé	65 points	29) Enrico Sasso	13 points
13) Brian Makse	55 points	30) Jeff Boudreault	10 points
14) Mario Berthiaume	53 points	31) Martin Gray	9 points
15) Frédéric Bernier	51 points	32) Edward Wong	7 points
16) Pierre Clavet	44 points	33) Carl Wener	3 points
17) Nicolas Touchette	41 points		

