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MICRA CUP MAGAZINE



ROUND 5

CIRCUIT MONT-TREMBLANT
JULY 22, 23, 24

RAIN, SUN AND A LOT OF ACTION!





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PERFECT WEEKEND FOR **XAVIER COUPAL** IN THE NISSAN MICRA CUP!

- Second half of the season starts with two spectacular races in the rain and the sun -

Held this past weekend as part of the Summer Classic at Circuit Mont-Tremblant (Québec), the ninth and 10th rounds of the 2016 Nissan Micra Cup alternated between extreme rain for Saturday's race and scorching summer sun for Sunday's race. This marked the start of the second half of the 2016 season.

The Nissan Micra Cup drivers dealt with different forces of nature during this event, demonstrating the versatility of the practically stock Nissan Micra S race cars in both wet and dry conditions. The dry weather for Saturday morning's qualifying session was replaced by intense rain for the first race, before the sun came back out for Sunday's qualifying session and race.

Kevin King earned the pole position following the first race, ahead of 2015 champion Olivier Bédard and Valérie Limoges, who had her best qualifying finish in the series since she started last year. Albertan Stefan Rzdzinski and the series leader, Xavier Coupal, completed the top five.

Having kicked off under rain conditions worthy of a tropical storm, the afternoon race saw the drivers brilliantly manoeuvre their Nissan Micras through a significant amount of water. Despite these conditions and next to no visibility, no incidents occurred, confirming once again the excellent driving ability displayed in this series. The race was halted on two instances, including a three-car

collision that eliminated veteran Normand Boyer, Frédéric Bernier and rookie Stéfan Gauthier, who were battling for a spot among the top 10, two laps prior to the finish.

At the front of the pack, Kevin King led the first few laps before watching Olivier Bédard take over, ahead of his teammate Xavier Coupal. The order looked to be solidified, but three laps before the finish, Coupal was able to take the lead en route to his third victory of the season. Bédard finished in second place, ahead of Nic Hammann, the Nissan GT Academy driver and winner of the 2014 United States GT Academy. The young American, clearly comfortable in the rain, had his best race since starting in the series this past spring, climbing four positions to finish on the podium.

Valérie Limoges, Stefan Rzdzinski, Kevin King, Marc-Antoine Demers, Chris Sahakian, Metod Topolnik and Valérie Chiasson rounded off the top 10. Starting in last place, NASCAR driver Patrick Dussault, who was making his grand debut in the series, gained nine places to finish 14th.

The following day brought completely different weather. To the delight of the spectators, sun was in the sky during the second race, an even more intense battle with no less than 10 leader changes in the 30 minutes of racing. The lead driver was Stefan Rzdzinski, who qualified in pole position, followed by Olivier Bédard, Nic Hammann, Kevin King, Metod Topolnik and Xavier Coupal. Valérie Limoges was also part of the pack before her race ended following a collision.

At the end of the race, Coupal was crowned with a perfect weekend after winning his second consecutive victory. He beat out Bédard by only two-tenths of a second and Rzdzinski by six-tenths. Hammann finished in fourth, just ahead of King, who led for more than half of the race. Topolnik, Demers and Boyer rounded out the top eight.

Another exceptional battle took place for ninth place between Valérie Chiasson, Patrick Dussault, Jeff Boudreault and Frédéric Bernier. After succumbing to a DNF (did not finish) the previous evening, Bernier took revenge by claiming this hard-fought ninth place, ahead of Chiasson who took 10th spot from Dussault four laps before the finish. Boudreault finished 12th.

After the event concluded, race officials penalized four drivers with a 30-second penalty for avoidable contact, including Valérie Chiasson and Metod Topolnik. As a result, Jeff Boudreault secured a spot in the top 10.

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



ROOKIE JOURNALISTS IN THE PADDOCKS!

The Nissan Micra Cup paddocks host drivers who are rising stars, but also young rookies who come straight from karting. At Circuit Mont-Tremblant, the Nissan Micra Cup saw journalists of tomorrow at work in the paddocks. Their names are Catherine, daughter of driver Frédéric Bernier, and Ilian, who are nine and seven-years-old, respectively. Both passionate about the Nissan Micra Cup, Catherine and Ilian walked in the paddocks with the NV Production team to meet with drivers and conduct interviews from their own perspectives. These interviews will be coming soon to video and will be shared on the Nissan Micra Cup Facebook page: Coupe Nissan Micra Cup.

COMEDIAN, TV HOST AND NASCAR STAR!

The Nissan Micra Cup attracts drivers from every walk of life and motorsport background, including numerous rookies. During the Summer Classic in Mont-Tremblant, a comedian (Jeff Boudreault, in car #220), a television sports journalist (Marc-André Perreault of TVA, in the Nissan Canada media car #23) and a NASCAR driver (Patrick Dussault, in the Perry Competition/Hull Nissan car #86) were all competing. With different goals and results, each one of them pointed out how much fun they had driving the quick and almost stock Nissan Micra S race cars. From a wet track on Saturday to a hot sun on Sunday, the drivers experienced every possible weather condition.

TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP SUMMARY

Shared by Xavier Coupal, who to this day has only been replaced during one race by Bertrand Godin, car #572 of Albi Nissan continues to dominate the team championship, which is reserved for teams with cars shared by two or three drivers throughout the season. The second position is being fought for by three teams, including Perry Competition / Hull Nissan (#86), Total Canada (#220) and United Auto Racing (#27). In three weeks at Trois-Rivières, this championship will welcome team TireLink (#55), with Nicolas Touchette giving his place to Jeff Boudreault for the two races taking place over the course of the weekend.



NEXT RACE: GRAND PRIX DE TROIS-RIVIÈRES

The next race weekend will be held during the Grand Prix de Trois-Rivières on August 12th, 13th and 14th. The Nissan Micra Cup will be one of the biggest series taking place at this always popular event, during which Nissan Canada will be recognized as a partner. There will be multiple activities and surprises on site throughout the entire weekend.



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2...3 QUESTIONS TO... **DIDIER MARSAUD**

Didier Marsaud, Director, Corporate Communications at Nissan Canada Inc. wears «two hats» for the company. In addition to his head office PR role, Didier – who has a career rooted in motorsport journalism - is also responsible for the Nissan Micra Cup project at Nissan Canada. Deeply involved since the inception of the Micra Cup, he shares with us achievements so far this summer, and gives us his point of view on this season...

Two weeks ago at Canadian Tire Motorsport Park, Nissan Canada presented the Nissan Micra Cup spot concept to TSN and RDS. What is it exactly?

The Nissan Micra Cup is an important part of the marketing strategy at Nissan for the Micra, and in light of this, we established a few key partnerships. Among them, there is the one developed with sports stations TSN and RDS which have broadcasted, since the CTMP event, 30-second clips summarizing the remaining races of the 2016 season. Those clips are presented during



the shows Sport 30 on RDS and Sportscentre on TSN, which are news programs with an extremely high audience. The objective of these clips is to further develop the Nissan Micra Cup fan base, as well as share the fun our drivers have on track.

On that note, Tim Hauraney former race car driver and now broadcaster for TSN, will be participating in the races at Trois-Rivières in one of the two Nissan Canada media cars. Tim's involvement and his work with TSN is a key component as we continue to tell the Micra Cup story, this year with an increased focus on English Canada in view of the series' expansion to Ontario.

More great news - Nissan Canada will be one of the main partners of the Grand Prix de Trois-Rivières! This partnership includes a hospitality section that will be in the paddock and open to all Nissan Canada clients. A lot of animation, exhibitions and surprises will await the fans!

Is Nissan Canada's involvement as strong as last year's?

Even stronger! The Nissan Micra Cup is no longer only on Québec tracks, but also in Ontario, which allows us to cover our two main markets for the Micra. We are also delighted by the increased exposure through a wide array of audience and channels: media coverage across the country, and on social media. This is all fuelled the general public's interest, and that our dealerships and employees. This infatuation goes beyond the series, as it shows the enthusiasm of Nissan and Nismo brands in Canada.

On the track, how do you see the second half of the 2016 season?

I see it in three descriptions: extremely open, constantly exciting and very action-packed! This season, there are eight-to-10 drivers still in contention to fight for the ultimate victory, which is a bigger battle for the top than we saw last year. With the last races of 2016 taking place on such different tracks - Trois-Rivières, CTMP and Mont-Tremblant - is it very interesting, knowing that some drivers are more comfortable on certain types of tracks than others. Predicting the 2016 champion is almost impossible. The title will surely be played out until the last race, and that's good!

On top of this, I want to highlight the fact that there has been great battles in the middle of the pack. We see that all the drivers are having a blast no matter where his or her name falls on the standings. This sense of wholehearted fun is the true essence of the Micra Cup, and that's the highlight for me.



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***PATRICK DUSSAULT:
THE SPECIAL GUEST...***





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After Kevin Lacroix last year, a second NASCAR Pinty's driver made his debut in the Nissan Micra Cup this weekend at Circuit Mont-Tremblant. Patrick Dussault is not only a NASCAR regular driver after being one of the stars in Formula Renault in Europe two years ago, and runner-up in the United Kingdom's Formula 1600. He is also considered by many to be one of Canada's most prolific rising motorsport stars. We sit with Patrick to get his thoughts on the Micra Cup

of the series is the same. In NASCAR for example, the series is supported from the offices in Florida, it is NASCAR USA that manages it. They have a lot of notoriety by their name alone, whereas the Nissan Micra Cup is completely Canadian.



intense the competition here, there are so many good drivers and we are in a series where the power of the car doesn't make the difference and neither does the budget to develop the car or the technologies. It is also very accessible money-wise, and when I see the costs of a season in open-wheel cars in which I participated in Europe, or even now in NASCAR, it is completely different. In the Nissan Micra Cup, I saw immediately that it is the driver's talent that makes the difference.

Was this your first time racing in a front-wheel drive car? Was it stressful?

No, I had a little mishap during the qualifying session but it wasn't stressful. I made a driving mistake and hit the guardrail. Perry Performance/Hull Nissan repaired it right away and even though I started Saturday's race from the back of the pack, I was able to climb back to 14th place, the best result I could achieve in the rain.

What comparison can you make between NASCAR and Nissan Micra Cup?

Even if cars are completely different, both series are very professional. It is fantastic that a manufacturer is directly involved in a series. With my experience, in Europe, I can compare Nissan's involvement in the series to Renault's participation in the Clio Cup, for example. I had the opportunity to drive a Renault Clio when I was racing in the United Kingdom - it is a little bit more powerful than a Nissan Micra, but the professionalism

Sunday's race went much better. What were your impressions?

The goal was achieved. I qualified 10th and I had a great battle with Valérie Chiasson. It was really fun and I had nothing to prove. As I said earlier, I participated in this Nissan Micra Cup race weekend for fun and to help Perry Performance / Hull Nissan. The first event is done and it was a positive experience. I will now concentrate on the NASCAR race weekend during the Grand Prix de Trois-Rivières, but I will surely be watching the Nissan Micra Cup races just for fun!

Patrick, what brings a NASCAR driver like you to the Nissan Micra Cup series?

Perry Performance is sponsoring me for my maiden season in the NASCAR Canadian series, and Carl Wener, team owner of Perry Performance / Hull Nissan in the Nissan Micra Cup, offered me a spot to compete in the Summer Classic in this series. They not only wanted me to drive the car, but also help them tune it, given my previous experience gained in open-wheel. I quickly took this great opportunity to test-drive something new.

And what are your initial impressions of the Nissan Micra Cup?

I challenge all drivers to come and try the Nissan Micra Cup! In Motorsport, we all know that a sense of pride is what sets the tone for competition, now drivers have the opportunity to show that they are really the best in a series where all cars are identical. I discovered how





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CIRCUIT MONT-TREMBLANT RACE 9 AND 10 RESULTS

QUALIFICATION RACE 1

1) Kevin King	No.40
2) Olivier Bédard	No.1
3) Valérie Limoges	No.4
4) Stefan Rzdzinski	No.69
5) Xavier Coupal	No.572
6) Metod Topolnik	No.78
7) Nic Hammann	No.2
8) Jacques Bélanger	No.29
9) Marc-Antoine Demers	No.422
10) Stéfan Gauthier	No.96
11) Valérie Chiasson	No.26
12) Chris Sahakian	No.9
13) Normand Boyer	No.11
14) Frédéric Bernier	No.28
15) Mario Berthiaume	No.7
16) Jeff Boudreault	No.220
17) Alex Habrich	No.75
18) Peter Dyck	No.73
19) Marc-André Perreault	No.23
20) Ashley Sahakian	No.77
21) Craig Willoughby	No.00
22) Yves Aubé	No.17
23) Patrick Dussault	No.86
DNS) Jean-Michel Isabelle	No.27

QUALIFICATION RACE 2

1) Stéfan Rzdzinski	No.69
2) Olivier Bédard	No.1
3) Xavier Coupal	No.572
4) Nic Hammann	No.2
5) Marc-Antoine Demers	No.422
6) Kevin King	No.40
7) Valérie Limoges	No.4
8) Metod Topolnik	No.78
9) Chris Sahakian	No.9
10) Patrick Dussault	No.86
11) Valérie Chiasson	No.26
12) Frédéric Bernier	No.28
13) Jacques Bélanger	No.29
14) Jean-Michel Isabelle	No.27
15) Normand Boyer	No.11
16) Mario Berthiaume	No.7
17) Jeff Boudreault	No.220
18) Alex Habrich	No.75
19) Peter Dyck	No.73
20) Marc-André Perreault	No.23
21) Yves Aubé	No.17
22) Ashley Sahakian	No.77
23) Craig Willoughby	No.00
24) Stéfan Gauthier	No.96

RACE 1

1) Xavier Coupal	12 laps
2) Olivier Bédard	-0.278
3) Nic Hammann	-1.225
4) Valérie Limoges	-1.587
5) Stefan Rzdzinski	-2.467
6) Kevin King	-2.973
7) Marc-Antoine Demers	-4.082
8) Chris Sahakian	-4.725
9) Metod Topolnik	-5.831
10) Valérie Chiasson	-6.582
11) Jacques Bélanger	-7.672
12) Jeff Boudreault	-8.689
13) Mario Berthiaume	-9.792
14) Patrick Dussault	-10.311
15) Alex Habrich	-11.596
16) Ashley Sahakian	-13.660
17) Peter Dyck	-2:13.903
18) Yves Aubé	Penalty
19) Craig Willoughby	-1 lap
20) Stéfan Gauthier	-2 laps
21) Frédéric Bernier	-2 laps
22) Normand Boyer	-2 laps
23) Marc-André Perreault	-8 laps
DNS) Jean-Michel Isabelle	-----

RACE 2

1) Xavier Coupal	15 laps
2) Olivier Bédard	-0.256
3) Stefan Rzdzinski	-0.618
4) Nic Hammann	-2.408
5) Kevin King	-2.780
6) Marc-Antoine Demers	-14.181
7) Normand Boyer	-16.221
8) Frédéric Bernier	-16.598
9) Patrick Dussault	-20.205
10) Jeff Boudreault	-22.112
11) Jean-Michel Isabelle	-22.985
12) Mario Berthiaume	-23.195
13) Stéfan Gauthier	-30.479
14) Metod Topolnik	Penalty
15) Jacques Bélanger	-34.937
16) Peter Dyck	-43.904
17) Valérie Chiasson	Penalty
18) Alex Habrich	-49.953
19) Yves Aubé	-55.046
20) Chris Sahakian	Penalty
21) Ashley Sahakian	-59.091
22) Marc-André Perreault	Penalty
23) Craig Willoughby	-1:40.900
24) Valérie Limoges	-13 laps

DRIVERS STANDINGS

1) Xavier Coupal	324 points	18) Jean-Michel Isabelle	48 points
2) Olivier Bédard	293 points	19) Pierre Clavet	44 points
3) Stefan Rzdzinski	273 points	19) Alex Habrich	44 points
3) Kevin King	266 points	21) Stéfan Gauthier (recrue)	43 points
5) Valérie Limoges	222 points	22) Nicolas Touchette	41 points
6) Marc-Antoine Demers	206 points	23) Kirk Robinson	35 points
7) Nic Hammann	194 points	24) Jeff Boudreault	31 points
8) Normand Boyer	144 points	25) Ashley Sahakian (recrue)	30 points
9) Chris Sahakian	108 points	26) Karl Wittmer	26 points
10) Metod Topolnik	103 points	27) Patrick Dussault	21 points
10) Jacques Bélanger	102 points	28) Craig Willoughby	19 points
12) Yves Aubé	71 points	29) Carl Nadeau	18 points
13) Mario Berthiaume	70 points	30) Bertrand Godin	14 points
14) Frédéric Bernier	69 points	31) Enrico Sasso	13 points
15) Valérie Chiasson	56 points	32) Martin Gray	9 points
16) Brian Makse	55 points	33) Edward Wong	7 points
17) Peter Dyck (recrue)	50 points	34) Carl Wener	3 points

