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MICRA CUP MAGAZINE



ROUND 6



GRAND PRIX DE TROIS-RIVIÈRES
AUGUST 12, 13, 14

**A GT-R AND
25 MICRAS
IN THE CITY!**



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RZADZINSKI AND COUPAL CLAIM VICTORIES AT THE GRAND PRIX DE TROIS-RIVIÈRES

- Two spectacular races won by Albertan Stefan Rzadzinski and Quebecker Xavier Coupal -

This weekend at the Grand Prix de Trois-Rivières, which once again attracted thousands of spectators, the Nissan Micra Cup held its eleventh and twelfth races of the 2016 season. The two races were action-packed and included a number of position changes. In the end, Albertan driver Stefan Rzadzinski claimed his first victory of the season on Saturday, while Xavier Coupal earned the win on Sunday.

Official partner of the 2016 Grand Prix de Trois-Rivières, Nissan was very involved on-site with numerous guests and celebrities in the paddocks and a variety of activities for the public. The most anticipated activity for the fans was naturally the two Nissan Micra Cup races on the schedule and the spectators were not disappointed.

Qualifying in pole position for the first race, championship leader Xavier Coupal hoped this weekend in Trois-Rivières would increase his lead in the overall standings. But following the formation lap behind the event's safety car, the 2017 Nissan GT-R, the green flag was waved to mark the start of the race and

Coupal was passed by Rzadzinski and veteran Richard Spénard, who made his return to the series much to the delight of the fans. Spénard gave up his position shortly after and Coupal moved up, one by one, to reclaim the lead after a fantastic duel with Rzadzinski.

At the end of the race, Xavier Coupal crossed the finish line first but after analyzing the race, officials penalized him for driving outside of the track's limits as he overtook Rzadzinski, dropping him to seventh place. This handed the victory to Stefan Rzadzinski, who was declared the winner for the first time this season. Kevin King finished in second place after a great battle with 2015 champion Olivier Bédard, the third place finisher.

Jean-Michel Isabelle recorded a fantastic fourth place finish after fending off Nismo GT Academy driver Nic Hammann during the first part of the race. Valérie Limoges completed the top six, followed by Xavier Coupal, Marc-Antoine Demers, Jacques Bélanger, Chris Sahakian, Normand Boyer, Frédéric Bernier and the top novice, Stéfán Gauthier.

On Sunday, the twenty-five Nissan Micra Cup drivers took to the track for the second race. After qualifying once again in pole position, Xavier Coupal controlled the event from the start to the finish, albeit under pressure from Olivier Bédard the entire time.

Kevin King completed the podium in third place ahead of Hammann and Rzadzinski, who both started farther back in the pack at the start but benefited from a three-car crash near the end of the race between Isabelle, Limoges and Spénard. Only Spénard was able to finish the race (penalty), ahead of Demers, Bélanger, novice Stéfán Gauthier and Normand Boyer.

Two local drivers from Trois-Rivières took part in this event. A regular in the series, Mario Berthiaume finished 14th on Saturday and 10th on Sunday. Paul Dargis, Bertrand Godin's teammate in the United Auto car (#27), was only competing in Saturday's race and finished 20th. Godin gained nine places in Sunday's race to finish 12th.

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



MICHEL BARRETTE IN THE NISSAN MICRA CUP NEXT YEAR !

Michel Barrette, popular Québec actor and comedian, was invited to the GP3R by promoter Jacques Deshaies as a Nissan Micra Cup VIP guest. He indulged in the sport of racing by doing a few laps behind the wheel of one of Albi Nissan's Micras during a promotional activity on the track Friday morning. After following the advice of his «instructor», Richard Spénard, Barrette didn't hide his joy. «It is a very fun car to drive. I wouldn't have stopped, I would have lapped until gas ran out, it was so fun,» said Barrette (pictured here with Barrette). «You have to be very precise behind the wheel, ensuring that you don't compensate driving mistakes with power. As long as I was following Richard Spénard, I knew that I would do a good job.» Barrette's experience on the track even sparked his interest in joining the series next season, alongside with his son Nicolas.

FROM THE NISSAN MICRA CUP TO NASCAR XFINITY

For the first time ever, a Nissan Micra Cup driver took part in the hugely popular NASCAR Xfinity series. Nic Hammann, Nismo GT Academy driver in the Nissan Micra Cup, competed at Watkins Glen in the state of New York, before the GP3R race weekend. With a three-season-old car, Hammann didn't have high hopes for his NASCAR debut. He had a great start but was involved in an eight-car wreck during the 18th lap. Hammann lost five laps due to the incident and was forced to give-up after only finishing two-thirds of the race. Nevertheless, this was a great experience for the 2014 Nissan GT Academy U.S. winner!



OPPOSITE ENDS OF THE AUTOMOTIVE SPECTRUM MEET AT GP3R.

Spectators of the Micra Cup race at Grand Prix Trois-Rivières had a special opportunity to see one of Nissan's fastest and most legendary vehicles on the race track – the Nissan GT-R, a.k.a. *Godzilla*. For one weekend only, the iconic sports car was the pace car for both Micra Cup races this weekend, marking a rare time *Godzilla* shares a race track with Canada's most affordable car, the Nissan Micra... The 2017 Nissan GT-R has been updated with an exciting new look both inside and out, as well as receiving major driving performance enhancements in key areas. The GT-R's award-winning 3.8-litre V6 24-valve twin-turbocharged engine – each unit handcrafted by its own Takumi technician – now delivers 565 horsepower at 6800 rpm and 467 lb-ft of torque, representing an increase of 20 HP and 4 lb-ft, respectively, from last year's model. The new GT-R is also more comfortable than ever before, with a new sense of elegance and civility that one would rarely find in such a high-performance super sports car.



THE RETURN OF RICHARD SPÉNARD!

Veteran Canadian champion Richard Spénard, 62 years old, was back on track at the GP3R. Behind the wheel of one of Albi's car, he proved that he didn't lose his touch by challenging the young drivers in front! Qualified fourth and eighth, he had to retire during the first race due to a break failure, but he stayed in the leaders group during all the second race. Once again, the driver we used to call King Richard, confirmed to everyone how much fun he had participating in the Nissan Micra Cup series.

NEXT RACE : A SECOND EVENT AT MOSPORT !

The next Nissan Micra Cup event will take place over Labour Day weekend in September. This will be the second race weekend at the Canadian Tire Motorsport Park, formerly known as Mosport and located East of Toronto. This time it will be during the NASCAR event on September 2,3 and 4.

PARTNER OF THE GRAND PRIX DE TROIS-RIVIÈRES

A NOTED PRESENCE !



Five Titan XD Diesel served as safety cars for the officials of the event the whole weekend.

A VIP experience at the heart of the paddocks of the Nissan Micra Cup was there for every Nissan owner to visit. The drivers autographs session has been held in front of this tent, and a big crowd attended.



Miss Météo of Salut Bonjour (TVA network), Geneviève Hébert-Dumont (here in picture with journalist/driver Gabriel Gélinas), was live from the Nissan Micra Cup paddocks a few times on Saturday.

The Nissan GT-R 2017 was the official car of the event. Needless to say, the fans loved it !



A dozen Nissan cars were exposed on different parts of the site for this 2016 edition.



A specially equipped Murano for medical interventions was part of the official Nissan cars.



Nissan vehicle owners in the VIP tent during all the weekend !





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2...3 QUESTIONS TO...

VALÉRIE CHIASSON

Registered at the Grand Prix de Trois-Rivières in the Porsche GT3 Cup as well as in the Nissan Micra Cup with team Nissan Gabriel, Valérie Chiasson is involved on multiple levels in the motorsport world. Since last spring, the 27-year-old driver is also the Canadian representative for the «Women in Motorsport» Commission of the Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile.

Tell us about the "Women in Motorsport" Commission - what is your role ?

To help women integrate into the world of racing. This involves all women who work as drivers, engineers, team leaders, mechanics, etc. The Commission's primary mission is to create a sport culture, adopt strategies and policies which will validate and facilitate women's participation in all aspects of car racing. This Commission, which appointed me last spring as the Canadian representative, was created by Michèle Mouton, who was runner-up in the World Rally Championship in the 1980's and who is still considered today by many as the best female racer ever in motorsports.

There are three female drivers in the Nissan Micra Cup. Do you think that the series could attract more ?

Yes and for multiple reasons. Firstly, it is a series that is immediately accessible after karting. Also, finding a budget for any driver is never easy, but the advantage of the Nissan Micra Cup is that it is much less expensive than in GT series or open-wheel car. However, increasing the number of female drivers just to say that there is an equal number of drivers would be ridiculous it must be fun, which the Micra Cup is! Girls presently in karting or who want to take a racing course should have an interest in going further and should seriously consider joining the Nissan Micra Cup. I am presently working on an activity scheduled for the fall that is meant to showcase female participation in racing, in all its aspects, not only driving. It will be held on a track somewhere in Canada, and its goal will be to demystify the sport and to show women that it is also a sport for them. I want to motivate them to join in! I will announce the details of this activity in a few weeks.

How do you compare the performance of your two competitors with your own this season ?

All three of us are in different situations. Ashley Sahakian has little experience. Ashley is this season's rookie and she progresses with each race. Her performance is promising. Valérie Limoges, on the other hand, is very experienced. Even though it was 10 years ago, she has



experience racing in professional series in the United States. I am probably biased because she is one of my very good friends and also my teammate in the Total technical team since this summer, but I really think that she has the talent to win in this series. As for me, I am having some technical difficulties with the car as a result of the start incident at Calabogie at the beginning of the season. I also missed four races because of professional obligations. I knew from the start that I would have no chance at the title but ever since the Summer Classic in Mont-Tremblant, I have experienced the pleasure of racing once again and I hope to close the season by being one of the frontrunners in the last two events.



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GRAND PRIX DE TROIS-RIVIÈRES RACE 11 AND 12 RESULTS

QUALIFICATION RACE 1

1) Xavier Coupal	No.572
2) Stefan Rzdzinski	No.69
3) Kevin King	No.40
4) Richard Spénard	No.5
5) Nic Hammann	No.2
6) Olivier Bédard	No.1
7) Jean-Michel Isabelle	No.86
8) Valérie Limoges	No.4
9) Jacques Bélanger	No.29
10) Chris Sahakian	No.9
11) Marc-Antoine Demers	No.422
12) Frédéric Bernier	No.28
13) Mario Berthiaume	No.7
14) Valérie Chiasson	No.26
15) Stéfán Gauthier	No.96
16) Normand Boyer	No.11
17) Paul Dargis	No.27
18) Gabriel Gélinas	No.23
19) Yves Aubé	No.17
20) Carl Nadeau	No.220
21) Jeff Boudreault	No.55
22) Tim Hauraney	No.24
23) Alex Habrich	No.75
24) Peter Dyck	No.73
25) Ashley Sahakian	No.77

QUALIFICATION COURSE 2

1) Xavier Coupal	No.572
2) Olivier Bédard	No.1
3) Kevin King	No.40
4) Stefan Rzdzinski	No.69
5) Nic Hammann	No.2
6) Jean-Michel Isabelle	No.86
7) Valérie Limoges	No.4
8) Richard Spénard	No.5
9) Frédéric Bernier	No.28
10) Marc-Antoine Demers	No.422
11) Valérie Chiasson	No.26
12) Mario Berthiaume	No.7
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20) Tim Hauraney	No.24
21) Bertrand Godin	No.27
22) Jeff Boudreault	No.55
23) Peter Dyck	No.73
24) Ashley Sahakian	No.77
25) Alex Habrich	No.75

RACE 1

1) Stefan Rzdzinski	22 laps
2) Kevin King	-0.652
3) Olivier Bédard	-1.130
4) Jean-Michel Isabelle	-9.338
5) Nic Hammann	-9.767
6) Valérie Limoges	-23.101
7) Xavier Coupal	Penalty
8) Marc-Antoine Demers	-25.280
9) Jacques Bélanger	-25.536
10) Chris Sahakian	-33.575
11) Normand Boyer	-34.364
12) Frédéric Bernier	-39.310
13) Stéfán Gauthier	-40.509
14) Mario Berthiaume	-41.815
15) Yves Aubé	-51.518
16) Carl Nadeau	-1:02.246
17) Peter Dyck	-1:15.441
18) Alex Habrich	-1:17.763
19) Tim Hauraney	-1:18.475
20) Paul Dargis	-1 lap
21) Jeff Boudreault	-1 lap
22) Gabriel Gélinas	Penalty
23) Valérie Chiasson	Penalties (2)
24) Richard Spénard	-9 laps
25) Ashley Sahakian	-12 laps

RACE 2

1) Xavier Coupal	16 laps
2) Olivier Bédard	-2.771
3) Kevin King	-4.100
4) Nic Hammann	-5.879
5) Stefan Rzdzinski	-6.760
6) Marc-Antoine Demers	-8.931
7) Jacques Bélanger	-9.783
8) Stéfán Gauthier	-10.732
9) Normand Boyer	-11.467
10) Mario Berthiaume	-12.436
11) Carl Nadeau	-13.320
12) Bertrand Godin	-14.577
13) Valérie Chiasson	-15.679
14) Frédéric Bernier	-16.767
15) Yves Aubé	-17.930
16) Chris Sahakian	-19.232
17) Alex Habrich	-20.334
18) Gabriel Gélinas	-21.688
19) Peter Dyck	-22.977
20) Ashley Sahakian	-23.803
21) Richard Spénard	Penalty
22) Jean-Michel Isabelle	-2 laps
23) Valérie Limoges	-2 laps
24) Jeff Boudreault	-4 laps
25) Tim Hauraney	-16 laps

DRIVERS STANDINGS

1) Xavier Coupal	390 points	14) Yves Aubé	80 points	27) Karl Wittmer	26 points
2) Olivier Bédard	361 points	15) Jean-Michel Isabelle	78 points	28) Bertrand Godin	23 points
3) Kevin King	331 points	16) Stéfán Gauthier (recrue)	67 points	29) Patrick Dussault	21 points
4) Stefan Rzdzinski	330 points	17) Valérie Chiasson	66 points	30) Craig Willoughby	19 points
5) Nic Hammann	246 points	18) Brian Makse	55 points	31) Enrico Sasso	13 points
6) Valérie Limoges	242 points	18) Peter Dyck (recrue)	55 points	32) Martin Gray	9 points
7) Marc-Antoine Demers	240 points	20) Alex Habrich	51 points	33) Edward Wong	7 points
8) Normand Boyer	166 points	21) Pierre Clavet	44 points	34) Richard Spénard	5 points
9) Jacques Bélanger	134 points	22) Nicolas Touchette	41 points	35) Carl Wener	3 points
10) Chris Sahakian	122 points	23) Jeff Boudreault	36 points	35) Paul Dargis	3 points
11) Metod Topolnik	103 points	24) Ashley Sahakian (recrue)	35 points		
12) Mario Berthiaume	89 points	24) Kirk Robinson	35 points		
13) Frédéric Bernier	83 points	26) Carl Nadeau	33 points		

