



# MICRA CUP

## M A G A Z I N E



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**RACES 1 AND 2**

MAY 19, 20 21  
CANADIAN TIRE MOTORSPORT PARK

**THE THIRD SEASON BEGINS!**

**ROUND**

**1**



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# **JEAN-MICHEL ISABELLE IS THE FIRST WINNER**

## OF THE 2017 NISSAN MICRA CUP

– The first two races of the 2017 season were won by the Quebec driver, in front of an enthusiastic crowd at the Canadian Tire Motorsport Park –

**This past weekend, the Nissan Micra Cup officially kicked off its 2017 season, the third in the series' history, at the Canadian Tire Motorsport Park (CTMP) northeast of Toronto, Ontario. Drivers competed in two races, one on Saturday in the sun and one on Sunday in the rain. Despite the opposing weather conditions, each race was just as exciting as the other for the tens of thousands of fans in attendance. In the end, Jean-Michel Isabelle won both races.**

The first surprise of the weekend came from Quebec driver Stéfan Gauthier. Rookie of the year last season, he earned pole position following both races ahead of other favourites, including his teammate Kevin King and former champions Olivier Bédard (2015) and Xavier Coupal (2016). Also noteworthy is Australian Keishi Ayukai's excellent debut, as he qualified in third and seventh place.

On Saturday under sunny skies, 22 drivers competed in the first race of the 2017 Nissan Micra Cup season. Unfortunately Stéfan Gauthier didn't benefit from his pole position for much longer than one lap before being involved in an accident with Brian Makse, the highest qualifying Ontarian driver. By the end of the race, it was Quebecker Jean-Michel Isabelle who claimed his very first victory of the series, ahead of Kevin King who finished second and Keishi Ayukai who finished third. Keishi Ayukai's first podium finish is a testament to the young Australian's talent.

The top 10 was completed by Xavier Coupal, Normand Boyer (first in the senior category, reserved for drivers 40 years and older), Valérie Limoges, Olivier Bédard, Marc-Antoine Cardin, Edward Wong and Peter Dyck. Among the rookies, brothers Nicolas and Martin Barrette finished first and second, putting some friendly pressure on their father, Michel Barrette, who will be competing at Circuit Mont-Tremblant next weekend.

On Sunday, tens of thousands of spectators flocked to CTMP to watch the scheduled races. Fans also had the opportunity to admire over 50 Nissan Z models of all generations that were gathered in the paddocks. The Nissan Z's did a parade lap late Sunday morning on a dry track but by mid-afternoon, the weather conditions worsened for

the Nissan Micra Cup drivers. Despite constant rain, the competitors drove their Nissan Micras faultlessly and the race concluded without any accidents.

Xavier Coupal, who started in the lead after Stéfan Gauthier was penalized for the previous race's incident, resisted pressure from Olivier Bédard during the first few laps. However, similar to Saturday's race, Jean-Michel Isabelle took over the lead shortly before the midway point, putting himself in a position to claim another well-earned victory. Coupal and King joined Isabelle on the podium, ahead of Ayukai, Bédard, Boyer (winner of the senior class once again), Limoges, Cardin, Gauthier and Luc Richard. Nicolas Barrette earned his second consecutive victory among the rookies.

For more information on the Nissan Micra Cup, please go to the website [www.nissan.ca/micracup](http://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](#), on [Instagram: nissanmicracup](#)



# THE WORLD OF THE NISSAN MICRA CUP



## NISSAN Z PARADE ON THE TRACK

For the season opener of the Nissan Micra Cup, Nissan Canada invited all Nissan Z owners in Ontario to attend the first race weekend and cheer on the series' drivers. Gathered all weekend long in a corral in the paddocks, more than 50 Nissan Z owners joined thousands of spectators to watch the two Nissan Micra Cup races at the Canadian Tire Motorsport Park. They even participated in a parade on Sunday morning and did a lap around the track. The audience was thrilled to see and hear the Nissan Zs in full force, from the 240Z to the 270Z, as well as the 280Z and the 350Z.



## ALL NISSAN MICRA OWNERS ARE INVITED!

For the 2017 season of the Nissan Micra Cup, Nissan Canada is inviting every Canadian Nissan Micra owner to enjoy all six race weekends, free of charge! Nissan Micra owners must visit [www.micracup.com/eventregistration](http://www.micracup.com/eventregistration) three weeks before their preferred race weekend in order to register online, and will receive two tickets and one parking pass. The purpose of this offer is to bring together the Nissan Micra family, an initiative that garnered success at the season opener this past weekend, with 67 Nissan Micra owners registered and onsite. At Circuit Mont-Tremblant next week, there will be no less than 125 Nissan Micra owners present!



## NEXT RACE IN MONT-TREMBLANT... AND WILL FEATURE MICHEL BARRETTE AND SONS!

No break for the Nissan Micra Cup drivers! The next race weekend is taking place this weekend during the Spring Classic at Circuit Mont-Tremblant. The practice session is on Friday and the qualifications and races are on Saturday and Sunday. This is an event not to miss, especially since comedian Michel Barrette will be making his series debut, alongside his sons Nicolas and Martin. No doubt that the Nissan Micra Cup paddocks will benefit from this Québec celebrity whose humour is legendary!

## VINCENT DOYLE, A SPECIAL NEWCOMER

The Motorsport Agency, a marketing and promotional firm created by karting driver Juliana Chiovitti, made its debut in the Nissan Micra Cup this past weekend. A new team to the series, the driver was selected through a unique process. "After having closely followed the Nissan Micra Cup, I thought it would be the perfect series to start with my team, so I bought a race-ready Nissan Micra. We then began the search to determine who would represent our team as the driver," explains Juliana. "The search lasted six months. It started in Las Vegas and continued throughout North America. We received more than 200 applications, and we narrowed it down to 30 drivers. Then, 11 finalists were invited to a two-day event at Autodrome Saint-Eustache where they competed in a series of tests in front of a judging panel. The tests were not only to prove their driving skills, but also their communicative and marketing skills." The judges chose Vincent Doyle, a Blainville, Quebec native. He already has some experience in motorsport and is just getting started in racing. "We chose him for his driving skills, but also because he is perfectly bilingual and represents the best marketing opportunity for our team," concludes Juliana.



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## 2... 3 QUESTIONS FOR... **KEISHI AYUKAI**

The Nissan Micra Cup has featured a number of drivers with diverse backgrounds, including those from Thailand, India, the United States, and now, for the first time ever, an Australian driver is set to participate in the third season. His name is Keishi Ayukai and he was part of the Australian team that participated in the Nissan GT Academy. He was one of six drivers in his country who qualified to compete in the final phase at Silverstone. After an exceptional experience, Keishi decided to take his future in his own hands and pursue a career in motorsports. The Nissan Micra Cup was the perfect series for him, on the track as well as off it. Thanks to Alex Habrich who competed in the first season of the Nissan Micra Cup in 2015, the young Australian has found a second family in Canada.

### **Keishi, how did you first hear about the Nissan Micra Cup?**

Through the Nissan GT Academy – the team told me about it. I also saw the Nissan Micra Cup on YouTube which features highlights of the series. It was spectacular. The races were exciting to watch and I thought that it looked like a great series to participate in.

### **What did you feel the first time you tried a Micra?**

Even though it isn't very powerful on the track, because it was built for the road, the Nissan Micra is fun to drive. It has great adherence and you can push it to its limits. It is very agile when you go fast. I drove some GT-Rs at Silverstone last year and it is a completely different experience. There might be less power with the Micra, but like any race car, once you gain some speed it is a challenge to drive and I have a lot of fun doing it. It was good practice to take the Micra around for a few laps during the official trials at ICAR Circuit earlier this month, but driving the Micra at the Canadian

Tire Motorsport Park is somewhat different because of the speed and various elevations. The car reacts differently and I know that I need to get a bit more experience.

### **What are your goals for this season?**

There is no driver who comes to the races to be second so my goal is to win! But there are a lot of good drivers in the series, so I will do my best. I hope to have a career in motorsports, to become a professional driver and to do it for a long time. If I was given the choice, I would like to participate in the GT3 Car Series one of these days. There are a lot of drivers, a lot of cars and many emerging motorsport competitions. As an Australian, I would obviously like to participate in the V8 Supercar Series, but it is very difficult to get into. For the time being, I am very happy racing in the Nissan Micra Cup in Canada.



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# POSTCARD





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# CANADIAN TIRE MOTORSPORT PARK

## RACE 1 AND 2 RESULTS

ROUND

1

### QUALIFICATION RACE 1

1) Stéfan Gauthier.....	#96
2) Kevin King.....	#40
3) Keishi Ayukai.....	#59
4) Jean-Michel Isabelle.....	#86
5) Xavier Coupal.....	#1
6) Brian Makse.....	#13
7) Olivier Bédard.....	#99
8) Normand Boyer.....	#11
9) Valérie Limoges.....	#220
10) Frédéric Bernier.....	#28
11) Edward Wong.....	#80
12) Peter Dyck.....	#73
13) Marc-Antoine Cardin.....	#4
14) Samuel Rowe.....	#33
15) Alex Habrich.....	#75
16) Vic Simone.....	#8
17) Luc Richard.....	#26
18) Nicolas Barrette.....	#427
19) Austin Riley.....	#20
20) Michael Habrich.....	#88
21) Martin Barrette.....	#57
22) Vincent Doyle.....	#3

### QUALIFICATION RACE 2

1) Stéfan Gauthier.....	#96
2) Xavier Coupal.....	#1
3) Olivier Bédard.....	#99
4) Kevin King.....	#40
5) Jean-Michel Isabelle.....	#86
6) Valérie Limoges.....	#220
7) Keishi Ayukai.....	#59
8) Normand Boyer.....	#11
9) Edward Wong.....	#80
10) Marc-Antoine Cardin.....	#4
11) Brian Makse.....	#13
12) Samuel Rowe.....	#33
13) Frédéric Bernier.....	#28
14) Nicolas Barrette.....	#427
15) Luc Richard.....	#26
16) Martin Barrette.....	#57
17) Peter Dyck.....	#73
18) Austin Riley.....	#20
19) Vic Simone.....	#8
20) Alex Habrich.....	#75
21) Michael Habrich.....	#88
22) Vincent Doyle.....	#3

### RACE 1

1) Jean-Michel Isabelle.....	11 laps
2) Kevin King.....	-1.619
3) Keishi Ayukai.....	-2.258
4) Xavier Coupal.....	-2.943
5) Normand Boyer (S).....	-6.577
6) Valérie Limoges.....	-6.976
7) Olivier Bédard.....	-8.909
8) Marc-Antoine Cardin.....	-9.414
9) Edward Wong (S).....	-9.997
10) Peter Dyck (S).....	-10.643
11) Nicolas Barrette (R).....	-11.268
12) Martin Barrette (R).....	-12.401
13) Alex Habrich (S).....	-13.346
14) Vic Simone (S).....	-14.566
15) Vincent Doyle (R).....	-15.051
16) Austin Riley (R).....	-16.554
17) Michael Habrich (R).....	-18.792
18) Luc Richard.....	-19.974
19) Frédéric Bernier (S).....	-4 laps
20) Stéfan Gauthier.....	-10 laps
21) Brian Makse (S).....	-10 laps
22) Samuel Rowe (R).....	Excluded

### RACE 2

1) Jean-Michel Isabelle.....	16 laps
2) Xavier Coupal.....	-0.848
3) Kevin King.....	-9.267
4) Keishi Ayukai.....	-9.959
5) Olivier Bédard.....	-10.121
6) Normand Boyer (S).....	-23.956
7) Valérie Limoges.....	-50.577
8) Marc-Antoine Cardin.....	-57.808
9) Stéfan Gauthier.....	-1:31.825
10) Luc Richard.....	-1:32.336
11) Nicolas Barrette (R).....	-1:36.676
12) Vincent Doyle (R).....	-1:37.207
13) Peter Dyck (S).....	-1:45.150
14) Vic Simone (S).....	-1:51.824
15) Austin Riley (R).....	-2:02.079
16) Martin Barrette (R).....	-2:21.865
17) Alex Habrich (S).....	-1 lap
18) Michael Habrich (R).....	-1 lap
19) Edward Wong (S).....	-3 laps
20) Frédéric Bernier (S).....	D.N.S.
21) Brian Makse (S).....	D.N.S.
22) Samuel Rowe (R).....	D.N.S.



### DRIVERS STANDINGS

1) Jean-Michel Isabelle.....	82 points	12) Edward Wong (Senior).....	17 points
2) Kevin King.....	68 points	13) Vincent Doyle (Rookie).....	15 points
3) Xavier Coupal.....	64 points	13) Luc Richard.....	15 points
4) Kaishi Ayukai.....	62 points	15) Vic Simone (Senior).....	14 points
5) Normand Boyer (Senior).....	44 points	15) Martin Barrette (Rookie).....	14 points
6) Olivier Bédard.....	42 points	17) Alex Habrich (Senior).....	12 points
7) Valérie Limoges.....	38 points	18) Austin Riley (Rookie).....	11 points
8) Marc-Antoine Cardin.....	32 points	19) Michael Habrich (Rookie).....	7 points
9) Peter Dyck (Senior).....	20 points	20) Brian Makse (Senior).....	3 points
9) Stéfan Gauthier.....	20 points	20) Frédéric Bernier (Senior).....	3 points
9) Nicolas Barrette (Rookie).....	20 points	22) Samuel Rowe (Rookie).....	0 point

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