



MICRA CUP

MAGAZINE



CANADIAN TIRE MOTORSPORT PARK
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EVENT
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Mobil 1

PIRELLI

OLIVIER BÉDARD

WINNER AT THE SEASON KICKOFF WEEKEND

Two spectacular races to start the 2019 season at the Canadian Tire Motorsport Park, with the LEAF NISMO RC stealing the show

The fifth season of the Nissan Micra Cup officially started this weekend at the Canadian Tire Motorsport Park in Bowmanville, which saw reigning champion Olivier Bédard securing race victories on both Saturday and Sunday.

The races, which took place during the Victoria Day Weekend SpeedFest, were filled with enthusiasm and excitement from the crowd. Fans were also able to witness the famous Nissan LEAF NISMO RC, which was the first time in the history of motorsports presented in a Canadian or North American series that a 100 per cent electric car took to the track. Being used as the official pace car, the model is equipped with advanced battery technology and drivetrain components from the Nissan LEAF, the world's best-selling electric car. The LEAF NISMO RC executed the starting lap ahead of the pack of Micra Cup drivers as they prepared to start the race.

On Saturday under sunny skies, Bédard quickly took the lead right from the start. Qualifying in pole position for the 23rd time in his Nissan Micra Cup career, the Quebec driver's life wasn't made easy as drivers positions changed numerous times behind him, including the intense pressure put on by Torontonian Marco Signoretti near the end of the race. Signoretti, Kevin King, Ontarian Jake Exton, and Valérie Limoges started off their 2019 season with multiple position changes throughout the race. Their battle behind the wheel of their nearly stock but agile Nissan Micra S cars lasted throughout the entire 30-minute race. In the end, Signoretti, a rookie driver with karting experience

that's competing in a racing car for the first time, finished in second place right on Bédard's heels and just ahead of King, Limoges and Exton.

Taylor Neal, Signoretti's teammate and head of the new PayPal / Motorsports in Action team completed the top 6. Frédéric Bernier, Senior Class winner Sylvain Ouellet, Alex Habrich, and his son Michael Habrich rounded out the top 10.

Nissan Micra Cup fans and spectators were able to admire the LEAF Nismo RC in action on the track and in the paddocks on Saturday and once again on Sunday. In addition to the race and the LEAF Nismo RC, fans at the event had the opportunity to attend a drivers' autograph session, and Micra and Z owners took part in a mid-day parade on the track. The parade brought together 70 Micra and Z owners, including authentic collectors' models, setting a new record since its inception.

On Sunday afternoon, the Micra Cup race found Bédard leading the pack once again, with Signoretti close behind. The young Torontonian succeeded in taking the lead during the second lap but a slight driver error later allowed Bédard to reclaim the top spot and secure his second victory of the weekend. Behind him, Signoretti battled with Limoges and King, eventually solidifying another second-place finish just in front of the other two, who claimed third and fourth positions, respectively. The tight battle on the track captivated the attention of many spectators at the CTMP.

Taylor Neal completed the top 5 with a flawless race, ahead of Austin Riley, Jake Exton and Sylvain Ouellet who claimed the Senior Class title, followed by Éric Chaput and Frédéric Bernier.





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LEAF NISMO RC : A PREMIERE AT THE CTMP

This weekend, the Nissan Micra Cup has kicked off its fifth season, where the LEAF NISMO RC was in action on the race track as the official pace car for the 2019 Nissan Micra Cup series.

"As the pioneer of the world's first mass-market electric vehicle, we at Nissan are thrilled to present a vehicle that has the potential to steer towards a new era of motorsport," says Steve Millette, president of Nissan Canada Inc. "The Nissan LEAF NISMO RC is a paragon of zero-emission leadership and Nissan Intelligent Mobility. It has unbelievable power, which is sourced directly from the technology of the Nissan LEAF on the roads today. I am thrilled that motorsport fans have seen this power in action on the race track as it has led the convoy of Micra Cup race cars this weekend."

The all-new Nissan LEAF NISMO RC is an electric race car with more than double the maximum power and torque output of its predecessor. With dual electric motors, all-wheel-drive and an aggressive, restyled body shape, the purpose-built car demonstrates

how Nissan's electric vehicle technology can deliver exciting yet quiet, zero-emission power – a key component of the company's Nissan Intelligent Mobility vision. The model is equipped with advanced battery technology and drivetrain components from the Nissan LEAF, the world's best-selling electric car.

Nissan built six all-new LEAF NISMO RC vehicles to deploy around the world. Powering the all-new Nissan LEAF NISMO RC are two electric motors at opposite ends of the chassis. The motors produce 322 horsepower (161 each) and 472 pound-feet of instant torque to the wheels. They more than double the maximum power and the torque output of the previous LEAF NISMO RC, which was introduced in 2011. Drivetrain technology sourced from the new Nissan LEAF include the high-capacity lithium-ion battery and inverters.

A new all-wheel-drive system gives the LEAF NISMO RC its outstanding cornering prowess. Power is managed independently to each axle, instantly supplying torque to the tire with the most grip to let the car

maneuver quickly and efficiently around the track. Similar to the previous model, chassis weight balance has been optimized by the midship location of the battery pack, with the electric motors and inverters ideally placed over the front and rear tires.

The LEAF NISMO RC features a multitude of lightweight components and a full carbon fiber racing monocoque structure, allowing it to tip the scales at just 1,220 kilograms. The power-to-weight ratio results in an impressive performance of zero to 100 kph in just 3.4 seconds – 50% quicker than the previous model.

While the exterior of the all-new Nissan LEAF NISMO RC is spiritually based on the original LEAF NISMO RC, it sports a more aggressive exterior. A long hood and Nissan's signature V-motion grille highlight the totally restyled front end.

The car's three-piece bodywork includes removable front and rear sections, fixed windows, LED headlights and tail lights, and an adjustable rear wing for ideal downforce on the tarmac. The model is slightly longer than its predecessor, with an overall length of 4,546 millimeters and a wheelbase that measures 2,750 millimeters. The Nissan LEAF NISMO RC sits wide and low to the ground, with its wind-cutting form measuring only 1,212 millimeters from roof to road – more than 300 millimeters less than the production Nissan LEAF.





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2...3 QUESTIONS TO **JACQUES DESHAIES** NISSAN MICRA CUP PROMOTER

A quarter of the drivers that registered for the 2019 season are rookies in the series. Are you happy to see that the Nissan Micra Cup is still attracting new drivers?

Yes, especially because when launching a monotype series, there is always the risk of seeing the interest run out of steam after three or four years. We had the impression that there would be a drop, that the long-standing drivers would want to move on, but that hasn't been the case for the Nissan Micra Cup. The alumni drivers have stayed in the series because they're enjoying themselves, and we have a lot of new drivers this year, especially from Ontario. It's taken a bit longer to get the Ontario drivers engaged, so it's great to see more and more drivers from this province starting at the beginning of the season. I've also noticed that some of the

drivers are telling me about their interest for the 2020 season. They ask me to do a few races this season and some of them come from outside Canada, which is very positive for us. It means that we have fulfilled a need, especially for drivers who discover their love for motorsport, and young people who wants to try something other than an open wheel car.

At the beginning of the previous seasons, we would see new drivers who had no motorsport experience, but this season there are several drivers who come from karting. Is this a link that you want to see grow stronger in the future?

The drivers who come from karting see an outlet with the Nissan Micra Cup. They find that the series is solid and not expensive, and that the budget for a full season is not much higher than karting, or sometimes even less!

There are also more and more great used cars for sale now. The drivers coming from karting also acknowledge that it's not a bad idea to evolve in a touring car, but affordable and fun. The link is even more concrete now since the recently created Emergence program, which is a cooperation between the F1600 Series, the Nissan Micra Cup and the Quebec Leisure Karting Drivers Association (APKLO). One of the goals at the launch of the Nissan Micra Cup was to create a bridge between karting and higher series racing, and to provide a structure for young people to evolve. Also, to make sure that there's a certain hierarchy that young drivers can follow, similar to what's done in hockey.

It's rare that a pace car generates a lot of attention in a motorsport series. This year, the Nissan Micra Cup is an exception with the LEAF NISMO RC as the official pace car for the 2019 season. Is this a plus for the series?

Absolutely! The 100 per cent electric, all-wheel-drive LEAF NISMO RC offers impressive performance, a totally unique track sound, and brings even more visitors to our paddock. The Micra Cup also helps Nissan showcase its new technologies, values and products. Nissan is the leader in the electric vehicle market, so it's important to present the LEAF. Last year, the LEAF NISMO RC was a production car, but this year we have the privilege of having one of the six Japanese built vehicles as a pace car for our series. In addition to this weekend, it will also be on the track at the Grand Prix de Trois-Rivières and at the second Canadian Tire Motorsport Park race in August.





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CTMP POSTCARD





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IN THE NISSAN MICRA CUP WORLD



RECORD PARTICIPANTS IN THE PARADE!

The 2019 season marks the return of the popular Nissan owners' parade, where Nissan Micra and Z owners are invited to do a lap of the track on Sunday afternoon behind the wheel of their car. There were record participation numbers in the parade at the Canadian Tire Motorsport Park, with 70 cars on track including a mix of Micra's and Z's, some of them authentic andw exceptional models of collection. All these cars were preceded by the LEAF NISMO RC during their parade lap.



OUTSTANDING DEBUT FOR MARCO SIGNORETTI

After 12 years in karting, Torontonian Marco Signoretti has graduated in closed car racing this season. As a rookie driver at the Canadian Tire Motorsport Park (CTMP), he made an impressive performance at the wheel of his Micra S representing the PayPal / Motorsports in Action Team. Signoretti, in his first race ever at the CTMP and in the Nissan Micra Cup, finished in second place just 1 second and 107 thousands from the triple champion Olivier Bédard! There's no doubt that Signoretti will be a promising young kid to follow this season and in the years to come.

MICRA CUP TV ALLOWS FANS TO FOLLOW THE NISSAN MICRA CUP FROM AROUND THE WORLD!

For the second consecutive season, Micra Cup TV, the series' YouTube channel, will allow fans who cannot attend the event to follow all the Micra Cup action taking place throughout the weekend. The series Facebook page also posts live video interviews and footage from the weekend. This weekend at Canadian Tire Motorsport Park (CTMP), both races were broadcast live on the series YouTube and Facebook pages, which will also occur at the Trois-Rivières Grand Prix (August 9-11), for the second event at the CTMP in August (August 23-25) and at the season's finale (Circuit Mont-Tremblant, Sept.27-29).

NEXT RACE: THE KYLE NASH MEMORIAL AT CALABOGIE

The next Micra Cup event will be held in two weeks between June 1-2 during the Kyle Nash Memorial at Calabogie Motorsports Park, south-west of Ottawa. It will be the third appearance for the Nissan Micra Cup on the Calabogie track, which hosted the series' 2016 opening round and was back again in 2018. Saturday's qualifying session and race will take place on the small track, while Sunday's racing action will be held on the 5.05 km track, the longest track in Canada.



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CANADIAN TIRE MOTORSPORT PARK RACE 1 AND 2 RESULTS

QUALIFICATION RACE 1

- 1) Olivier Bédard #1
- 2) Marco Signoretti #97
- 3) Jake Exton #00
- 4) Valérie Limoges #220
- 5) Taylor Near #58
- 6) Kevin King #40
- 7) Austin Riley #20
- 8) Sylvain Ouellet #98
- 9) Nicolas Barrette #427
- 10) Éric Chaput #116
- 11) Michael Habrich #88
- 12) Frédéric Bernier #28
- 13) Alex P. Habrich #75
- 14) Mario Charette #728
- 15) Xavier Lassus #6
- 16) Demi Chalkias #26
- DSQ) Peter Hanson #4

QUALIFICATION RACE 2

- 1) Olivier Bédard #1
- 2) Marco Signoretti #97
- 3) Jake Exton #00
- 4) Valérie Limoges #220
- 5) Kevin King #40
- 6) Austin Riley #20
- 7) Taylor Near #58
- 8) Nicolas Barrette #427
- 9) Michael Habrich #88
- 10) Sylvain Ouellet #98
- 11) Éric Chaput #116
- 12) Alex P. Habrich #75
- 13) Frédéric Bernier #28
- 14) Mario Berthiaume #728
- 15) Xavier Lassus #6
- 16) Demi Chalkias #26
- DSQ) Peter Hanson #4

RACE 1

- 1) Olivier Bédard 16 laps
- 2) Marco Signoretti -1.107
- 3) Kevin King -6.588
- 4) Valérie Limoges -8.637
- 5) Jake Exton Penalty
- 6) Taylor Near -18.263
- 7) Frédéric Bernier -18.484
- 8) Sylvain Ouellet -31.932
- 9) Alex P. Habrich -42.888
- 10) Michael Habrich -43.017
- 11) Éric Chaput -50.987
- 12) Demi Chalkias -51.386
- 13) Austin Riley -51.689
- 14) Peter Hanson -1:00.688
- 15) Mario Charette -1:04.877
- 16) Xavier Lassus -1:24.174
- 17) Nicolas Barrette -14 laps

RACE 2

- 1) Olivier Bédard 23 laps
- 2) Marco Signoretti -8.145
- 3) Valérie Limoges -15.797
- 4) Kevin King -15.982
- 5) Taylor Near -20.573
- 6) Austin Riley -20.933
- 7) Jake Exton -30.304
- 8) Sylvain Ouellet -30.440
- 9) Eric Chaput -41.600
- 10) Frédéric Bernier -41.864
- 11) Mario Berthiaume -55.907
- 12) Nicolas Barrette -59.963
- 13) Alex P. Habrich -1 lap
- 14) Xavier Lassus -1 lap
- 15) Demi Chalkias -1 lap
- 16) Peter Hanson -12 laps
- 17) Michael Habrich -20 laps



DRIVERS STANDINGS

- 1) Olivier Bédard 88 points
- 2) Marco Signoretti (Rookie) 72 points
- 3) Kevin King 60 points
- 3) Valérie Limoges 60 points
- 5) Taylor Near 44 points
- 6) Jake Exton 42 points
- 7) Sylvain Ouellet (Senior) 32 points
- 8) Frédéric Bernier (Senior) 30 points
- 9) Austin Riley 28 points
- 10) Éric Chaput (S.+R.) 24 points
- 11) Alex Habrich (Senior) 23 points
- 12) Michael Habrich 16 points
- 12) Demi Chalkias 16 points
- 14) Peter Hanson (Senior) 13 points
- 14) Xavier Lassus (S.+R.) 13 points
- 16) Mario Berthiaume (Senior) 10 points
- 17) Nicolas Barrette 9 points
- 18) Mario Charette (S.+R.) 6 points

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