



# MICRA CUP

## MAGAZINE



**CIRCUIT MONT-TREMBLANT**  
*SEPTEMBER 27-28-29*

**EVENT**  
**6**

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**Mobil 1**



# **MARCO SIGNORETTI CROWNED** 2019 NISSAN MICRA CUP CHAMPION!

**- Valérie Limoges wins Saturday's race, Signoretti wins Sunday and Sylvain Ouellet named Senior Class champion -**

**Ontarian driver Marco Signoretti, a rookie this year in the series and in closed-car racing overall, claimed the 2019 Nissan Micra Cup Championship title this weekend at Circuit Mont-Tremblant. With this win, he becomes the first rookie driver and the first Ontarian to achieve this accomplishment.**

In a battle for the overall title with Quebecer Kevin King, Marco Signoretti managed to keep the lead ahead of his rival throughout the duration of the race on Saturday afternoon, despite rainy conditions, to ensure he earned enough points to be crowned 2019 champion. "I thought back at my 12 years of experience in karting and the errors I sometimes made," Signoretti said following Saturday's race. He continued "I then managed my race the best I could knowing that the ultimate goal was to claim the title, I'm very ecstatic to have won the Nissan Micra Cup in my rookie season."

After winning the pole position, the PayPal/Motorsports In Action Team driver did not take any risks while at the front of the pack. A great battle was also shaping up between Valérie Limoges (H.Grégoire Nissan), Jake Exton (Clarington Nissan) and another young karting driver, Gavin Sanders. For the numerous fans attending the 2019 Fall Classic, seeing Limoges earn the victory after 40-minutes of racing was definitely something to applaud.

The triumph for Limoges, the third in the series for the Quebec driver, was achieved after a close fight with Gavin Sanders, a standout in this race after overtaking both Jake Exton and Marco Signoretti. In the end, Limoges won by less than six-tenths of a second ahead of Sanders. Exton finished in third position in front of Éric Chaput, Signoretti, and Ben Cooper. As a former Karting World Champion, Cooper made his Nissan Micra Cup debut at this event and didn't miss a beat. Taylor Near, Kevin King, Frédéric Bernier, and Sylvain Ouellet completed the top 10.

Under sunny skies, Sunday's activities began with a new achievement for Ben Cooper. The triple world karting champion, originally from Great

Britain and currently residing in Mont-Tremblant, claimed pole position at the qualifying session. During the race, the battle for first place, which included at least six drivers in the first few laps, resulted in Cooper having to end his day early following a contact with Gavin Sanders and Kevin King.

This benefited Marco Signoretti, who took over the lead despite pressure from Jake Exton. The new 2019 champion crossed the finish line first ahead of Exton and Austin Riley, the young autistic driver whose third place finish rounded out an exceptional season. Nicolas Barrette completed the top four, ahead of Kevin King (following a penalty), Sylvain Ouellet, Sacha Gagnon (another promising young driver with a karting background), Nicolas Touchette, Mario Bwerthiaume and Francis Bellerive.

Sylvain Ouellet's sixth place, combined with Frédéric Bernier's retirement after a contact with Valérie Limoges, gave Ouellet the Senior Class title. The suspense in this category lasted throughout the entire season until the very last race. Bernier, largely the favorite, eventually conceded the crown to his rival. Both drivers were tied with the number of points but Ouellet was the holder of seven victories against three to Bernier.





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## ***IN THE NISSAN MICRA CUP WORLD***



### ***AUSTIN RILEY IN SALEEN, MARCO SIGNORETTI IN BRITISH GT... WHO WILL BE NEXT?***

Due to the unique and broad media visibility offered by the Nissan Micra Cup to its driver in Canada, North America and even internationally, two drivers of the series have had the opportunity to take part in events in the United States and England recently. Austin Riley was the first to travel abroad, being invited to compete in the all-new Saleen GT series in the United States. He secured two wins and second place in the Junior category, and is currently leading the championship in his category with the finale being held in Las Vegas on October 20<sup>th</sup>. Nissan Micra Cup rookie driver Marco Signoretti also had the opportunity to participate in the last race of the famous British GT car championship this season. Recruited by the Multimatic team that engages Mustang GT4, Marco was brilliant during the test drives. Unfortunately, he was unable to race due to his teammate having a collision at the start that led the team to retire.



### ***A DIVERSE AND SUCCESSFUL SEASON!***

The end of the Micra Cup season is beneficial for looking at the overall statistics. Without a doubt, the 2019 season was once again a success with the honour of being a season that saw the most winners, holders of pole positions, and different lap records since the start of the series in 2015. Thus, where 4 drivers had won at least 1 race in 2018, there were 5 this year. In terms of pole positions, we went from single to double in diversity; while 3 pilots had shared this honour in 2018, against 7 this year. In terms of race lap records, there were 4 different drivers in 2018 and 7 in 2019. Only in the rookie class, with the dominance of Marco Signoretti, saw fewer drivers put their name on the victory list than past seasons. All these statistics testify that the Nissan Micra Cup brings a lot of novelties each year and that multiple drivers can still claim the honours.

### ***SEE YOU IN 2020!***

The 2019 season ended at Circuit Mont-Tremblant as part of the Fall Classic. The teams and all those involved in the Nissan Micra Cup will meet for the traditional banquet celebrating the season on November 2, 2019. On the track, activities are already being planned for 2020. For this sixth season of the Nissan Micra Cup, six events are planned which will include 12 races throughout the season (two at each event). It will start in May and end in late September. The calendar is to be unveiled during the winter.



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## Q & A WITH

# **STEVE MILETTE,** PRESIDENT OF NISSAN CANADA

**2019 marked the fifth season of the Nissan Micra Cup. From Nissan Canada president's point of view, what is the assessment of the first five years of this technical, human and sporting adventure?**

It's extremely positive. We started from a human adventure to which many elements were added. The human side was what we felt most at the beginning and it continued with very beautiful stories, such as Austin Riley, the first autistic driver to climb the podium in a car series, or Valérie Limoges, the first woman to win an overall victory at the Grand Prix de Trois-Rivières in its 50 year history. When we launched the Micra in Canada, it was the most affordable car on the Canadian market, and we created the Nissan Micra Cup to demonstrate it was affordable, reliable, agile and fun to drive. This was a strong demonstration

of our desire to help this model succeed. The series immediately helped publicize the Micra's qualities. We saw this from the outset as sales performance in Quebec took off very quickly (the first season in 2015 was only on the Quebec circuit).

**In regards to the 2019 season, what are the main facts to remember?**

The podiums of Austin Riley, the victories of Valérie Limoges or the presence of a higher number of Ontarian drivers in the series, without forgetting the LEAF NISMO RC as the official pace car of the series. Presenting this car to the motorsport audience at events demonstrates the future of auto racing worldwide, and more particularly at Nissan. Being able to present this exceptional and 100 per cent electric powered car was very special. Nowhere else in the world has this car been used as a motorsport events pace car.

**This integration with the standard LEAF is important for Nissan Canada?**

Very important! The Nissan Micra Cup presents an interesting platform to showcase the future of motorsport using this electric powered prototype designed by Nismo. It demonstrates what the electric cars of tomorrow will be like, and don't forget that the LEAF NISMO RC uses components of the standard LEAF, its 62 Kw/h battery, and its engines. Canada produces electricity and Quebec supports electrification so these all are connected. The LEAF NISMO RC also supports Nissan's commitment to motorsports series such as Formula E.

**The driver who won the title is coming from karting. Is this link between the series and karting important for Nissan?**

It's essential, and I think it's the role of a manufacturer like Nissan to make motorsports accessible to drivers who are coming from karting, which is the basis of the race. The Nissan Micra Cup is a development series, this is what we wanted and I see that it indeed fulfills its role. The 2019 season has demonstrated this aspect with a higher number of drivers coming from karting than ever before, which includes Marco Signoretti of course.

**What are the goals set by Nissan Canada for the 2020 season?**

Continuity of what we have seen successfully for the last five years, always attracting more drivers from different backgrounds, always pursuing the goal of being a development platform, and remaining accessible and fun for new drivers. Great things are yet to come. Nissan Canada believes in the Nissan Micra Cup, which is good for our brand and for Canadian motorsport.





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## 2... 3 QUESTIONS TO **MARCO SIGNORETTI**, THE 2019 CHAMPION!

Overall champion and also rookie champion during his first season in car racing, an achievement not accomplished in the history of the Nissan Micra Cup series until now. Marco Signoretti had 12 years of kart racing experience when he took to the wheels of his Nissan Micra for the first time last spring, although he was a beginner in circuit racing. In a series as competitive as the Nissan Micra Cup, taking the lead in the opening round of the season was already an impressive accomplishment. The rest of the season only confirmed the talent of the young driver, who is also the first Ontarian in the series history to win the overall title...

***First year in the series and you secured the champion title. At what moment during the season did you realise you could finish in first place?***

After the first race, when I finished second and challenged the reigning champion, Olivier Bedard, I knew then that with a bit more experience I would be able to run at the front. It was a big learning process and its all starting to show now that I am more comfortable with the car.

***What did you like in this series?***

I come from karting and 2019 was my first season racing a car, that alone was pretty special. Being in the support series at some big events like the GP3R and the NASCAR truck series in Mosport with large crowds was also very cool. It was just a great experience to be at the wheel of a race car in such conditions. I've wanted to race cars for a long time and I want to sincerely thank my partner PayPal for giving me this fantastic opportunity.

***What is your goal for the next season, will you be defending your Nissan Micra Cup title?***

I'm not to sure what I'll do next season but I would love to still race cars. The deal with my PayPal sponsor for the Nissan Micra Cup was guaranteed for a year. We don't know yet what we are doing for 2020 but obviously, I would like to continue racing now that I have a taste of victory.





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## Q & A WITH

# **JACQUES DESHAIES,** MICRA CUP SERIES PROMOTER



As the fifth season of the Nissan Micra Cup comes to an end, promoter Jacques Deshaies takes stock and talks about the series' rookies, races competed, the numerous fans, and always showing up to events. He even mentions project plans for 2020...

**Jacques, the 2019 season was marked by the arrival of many new drivers, but besides this satisfaction, what does success look like to you?**

We welcomed a lot of new drivers this year. Some participated more episodically and other left to explore new horizons, which is normal. At my level, it's a good thing that there have been so many newcomers, it shows that the attractiveness of the series hasn't faded. Some drivers that started at the end of this season have already confirmed their participation next year for the full season. I think we've now really gained our nobility with the Nissan Micra Cup. Now five years into the series, the young

karting drivers discovered us and saw that it was a well established and formative series. For us as organizers of the series, this is good news because it was one of the goals we had when creating the series in 2015, and that's now become a reality. It should also be noted that the series remains very successful even though we had fewer entries in some of the races this season.

**This year, it's a rookie driver who has won the overall champion title. Does this inspire you?**

This is great news for the series! This will strengthen our visibility within the karting

community and amongst young drivers, especially since Marco Signoretti comes from this environment. He's a rookie driver who was at the highest level in the first race, which surprised everyone. Obviously, a performance like his is a great example and motivator for all young karting drivers who dream of moving to road racing in a professional series, while also staying within a reasonable budget with costs very close to karting. This shows drivers that they can progress, be quickly competitive, and aim for the front of the pack in a series like the Nissan Micra Cup. Lastly, I must also admit that it's refreshing to add a new name to the list of champions of the series.

**The 2019 season is over but we already know that you and your team of officials are working on the 2020 season, which will be the sixth season of the series. What can we expect next year?**

Every year, we work on new offerings for the series so that people always have more passion and enthusiasm for the Nissan Micra Cup. Not so much at the level of regulations that are stable, but rather in the recruitment of drivers. So, for 2020, we want to have even more young drivers joining the ranks of the series. These young drivers often have little budget to progress in the hierarchy of motorsport, but because the Nissan Micra Cup is not too expensive it's a suitable and affordable choice for them. With this contribution of young talent from karting, I'm convinced that the fight in the championship title will be even more exciting to observe next year. I also expect a lot more Ontario drivers to join the series, and anticipate reaching almost parity between Quebecers and Ontarians next season, which would be another great success story. After what we saw in 2019, I expect the 2020 season to be even more spectacular.



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# CIRCUIT MONT-TREMBLANT RACE 11 AND 12 RESULTS

## QUALIFICATION RACE 1

1) Marco Signoretti	#97
2) Taylor Near	#58
3) Jake Exton	#00
4) Ben Cooper	#31
5) Valérie Limoges	#220
6) Kevin King	#40
7) Gavin Sanders	#10
8) Sylvain Ouellet	#98
9) Frédéric Bernier	#28
10) Éric Chaput	#116
11) Austin Riley	#20
12) Francis Bellerive	#36
13) Xavier Lassus	#6
14) Mario Berthiaume	#728
15) Nicolas Barrette	#427
16) Roger Champoux	#22
17) André Lapointe	#47
18) Sacha Gagnon	#27
19) Nicolas Touchette	#55
20) Frédéric Bouthillier	#69
21) Mario Dufour	#96
22) Marie-Josée Massicotte	#53

## QUALIFICATION RACE 2

1) Ben Cooper	#31
2) Gavin Sanders	#10
3) Marco Signoretti	#97
4) Frédéric Bernier	#28
5) Valérie Limoges	#220
6) Éric Chaput	#116
7) Austin Riley	#20
8) Jake Exton	#00
9) Sylvain Ouellet	#98
10) Kevin King	#40
11) Sacha Gagnon	#27
12) Mario Berthiaume	#728
13) Nicolas Barrette	#427
14) Taylor Near	#58
15) Francis Bellerive	#36
16) Nicolas Touchette	#55
17) André Lapointe	#47
18) Xavier Lassus	#6
19) Frédéric Bouthillier	#69
20) Roger Champoux	#22
21) Mario Dufour	#96
22) Marie-Josée Massicotte	#53

## RACE 1 RESULTS

1) Valérie Limoges	17 laps
2) Gavin Sanders	-0.627
3) Jake Exton	-3.234
4) Eric Chaput	-3.409
5) Marco Signoretti	-3.684
6) Ben Cooper	-4.242
7) Taylor Near	-4.704
8) Kevin King	-5.404
9) Frédéric Bernier	-5.762
10) Sylvain Ouellet	-5.821
11) Austin Riley	-6.435
12) Mario Berthiaume	-23.740
13) Nicolas Touchette	-25.358
14) Sacha Gagnon	-28.641
15) André Lapointe	-38.169
16) Nicolas Barrette	-39.059
17) Xavier Lassus	-51.473
18) Roger Champoux	-1:10.103
19) Frédéric Bouthillier	-1:27.677
20) Mario Dufour	-2:10.408
21) Marie-Josée Massicotte	-1 lap
22) Francis Bellerive	-17 laps

## RACE 2 RESULTS

1) Marco Signoretti	18 laps
2) Jake Exton	-0.293
3) Austin Riley	-0.911
4) Nicolas Barrette	-9.797
5) Sylvain Ouellet	-11.01
6) Kevin King	Penalty
7) Sacha Gagnon	-13.151
8) Nicolas Touchette	-14.663
9) Mario Berthiaume	-23.019
10) Francis Bellerive	-29.713
11) Frédéric Bouthillier	-30.376
12) Roger Champoux	-31.715
13) Mario Dufour	-55.035
14) André Lapointe	-57.056
15) Marie-Josée Massicotte	-1:19.700
16) Taylor Near	-1 lap
17) Xavier Lassus	-6 laps
18) Ben Cooper	-9 laps
19) Valérie Limoges	Penalty
20) Gavin Sanders	-9 laps
21) Éric Chaput	-16 laps
22) Frédéric Bernier	-16 laps

## DRIVERS STANDINGS

1) Marco Signoretti (Rookie)	412 points	14) Gavin Sanders (Rookie)	77 points	27) Martin Barrette (Rookie)	20 points
2) Kevin King	338 points	15) Xavier Lassus (S.+R.)	76 points	28) Roger Champoux (S.+R.)	18 points
3) Valérie Limoges	295 points	16) André Lapointe (S.+R.)	62 points	29) Demi Chalkias	16 points
4) Jake Exton	239 points	17) Jean-Michel Isabelle	55 points	30) Michel Barrette (S.+R.)	15 points
5) Taylor Near	235 points	18) Mario Charette (Senior)	47 points	30) Perry Wener (S.+R.)	15 points
6) Sylvain Ouellet (Senior)	227 points	18) Nicolas Touchette (Senior)	47 points	32) Francis Bellerive (S.+R.)	14 points
7) Austin Riley	226 points	20) Marie-Josée Massicotte (S.+R.)	36 points	33) Peter Hanson (Senior)	13 points
8) Frédéric Bernier (Senior)	223 points	21) Frédéric Bouthillier (Rookie)	32 points	33) Mario Dufour (S.+R.)	13 points
9) Nicolas Barrette	185 points	22) Alex Habrich (Senior)	29 points	35) Nathan Gilbert (Rookie)	11 points
10) Éric Chaput (S.+R.)	161 points	23) Charles Robin	26 points	36) Paul Dargis (Senior)	9 points
11) Olivier Bédard	101 points	24) Ben Cooper (Rookie)	25 points	37) Charles Deschênes	5 points
12) Jesse Lazare	82 points	24) Sacha Gagnon (Senior)	25 points		
13) Mario Berthiaume (Senior)	81 points	26) Michael Habrich	23 points		



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