



MICRA CUP

MAGAZINE



CIRCUIT MONT-TREMBLANT

JULY 24-26, 2020

EVENT

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Mobil 1



KEVIN KING STARTS THE 2020 SEASON WITH TWO VICTORIES

- Two action-filled races took place behind closed doors at the Circuit Mont-Tremblant -

The opening event of the 2020 Nissan Micra Cup season took place this weekend at Circuit Mont-Tremblant located at the heart of the picturesque Laurentians. The event – the Summer Classic – was held behind closed doors in accordance with the government’s current guidelines. The 22 competitors were delighted to be at the track for the first time this season. Kevin King won both races – a first for him in the series in an event held in Québec.

During the hot summer Saturday, Jesse Lazare of the PayPal/Motorsports In Action team took the pole position ahead of series’ veterans Kevin King (LP Apparel/Nissan Gabriel) and Valérie Limoges (Total/H Grégoire Nissan). Éric Chaput, Taylor Near (Lazare’s teammate) and youngster Charles Robin, one of the two SH Karting team drivers, completed the Top 6.

Later in the afternoon, the official safety car of the series – a Nissan Altima – led the field for the formation lap. Moments after the green light, the race quickly turned into an outstanding battle for victory between Lazare and King. The two cars raced like they were glued together, with King’s Micra never falling more than three tenths of a second behind his rival’s machine. The two leaders fought intensively during the 40-minute race. On the penultimate lap, King managed to surprise Lazare with a successful move. King slipped into the lead and drove to his first victory of the season.

Behind them, Valérie Limoges quickly secured a place on the podium, finishing third ahead of Taylor Near and Charles Robin. Sylvain Ouellet finished sixth and emerged the winner of a spectacular six-car battle. Ouellet also claimed victory in the Senior class. Éric Chaput, rookie Gavin Sanders, Frédéric Bernier and André Lapointe completed the Top 10.

Sunday’s qualifying session for the second race was almost a copy of yesterday’s session with Jesse Lazare on pole position ahead of King and Limoges. Two candidates for the rookie title of the year, Ontarians Gavin Sanders and Justin Di Benedetto qualified fourth and fifth with youngster Charles Robin behind them in sixth place.

There was a light drizzle when the field took off at the green light in the afternoon. King and Limoges immediately jumped into the lead with Lazare in third place. Around the mid-race point, the race was interrupted for several minutes following François-Xavier Lassus off-road moment, without any harm



to the driver. The race was restarted with just two laps to go. Lazare did his best to pass King, without success. King took the chequered flag in first place, collecting his second win in two races.

Valérie Limoges finished third again, beating Taylor Near, rookie Gavin Sanders, Senior class winner Frédéric Bernier, Éric Chaput, André Lapointe, Sylvain Ouellet and Justin Di Benedetto.

Popular actor and comedian Michel Barrette, 63, was also back on track in the Nissan Micra Cup series during this Summer Classic. He was in competition with, among others, the youngest rookie ever seen in the series, Marie-Soleil Labelle, 16.



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IN THE NISSAN MICRA CUP WORLD



A winning start in the Radical prototype Series for Austin Riley!

The young autistic karting driver from Ontario at the start of his motorsport career, Austin Riley, had chosen the Nissan Micra Cup to make his car racing debut in 2017. After competing in 34 races in the series and conquering the podium three times at the end of several spectacular races last season, he made the jump to the Radical Prototype Championship Series this year. Going from the 107-horsepower Nissan Micra S to a Radical prototype, with nearly triple its power, did not bother Austin, who immediately won the first race of the season at the Calabogie racetrack. And, as if that was not enough for him, Riley did it again the next day, winning the second race of the weekend. Of course, the entire Nissan Micra Cup team wishes him a lot of success in this new challenge!

Tribute to Marc-Antoine Demers...

The drivers, their crew and all the Nissan Micra Cup staff paid tribute to Marc-Antoine Demers during the Summer Classic. The young driver, who took part in the series' first two seasons, died in a motorcycle traffic accident this summer. A sticker with his competition number (422) was also placed on most of the Nissan Micra Cup cars at Circuit Mont-Tremblant, in memory of this talented and sympathetic driver who, in 2015, won a race in the series on the same racetrack. Marc-Antoine competed in a total of 28 Nissan Micra Cup races, scoring 22 Top 10.

The Gilles-Villeneuve Museum in the race!

Marie-Soleil Labelle, who is just 16 years old is among the many rookie drivers in the Nissan Micra Cup this season. In addition to being the youngest driver ever seen in the series, Labelle will compete with a new team named

the Gilles-Villeneuve Museum. Created in 1988 in memory of the legendary Canadian driver who died in 1982, this museum is located in Berthierville, between Montreal and Trois-Rivières. Wishing to promote not only the museum – which shows thousands of memories of Gilles Villeneuve, including many of his cars and various activities – the Gilles-Villeneuve Museum wanted to have its team in the Nissan Micra Cup to show that its mission is also focused on the future. "For the museum, Marie-Soleil is a link between the generations, those who have known and seen Gilles Villeneuve on the track, and the youngest, who have only heard of the late champion. Marie-Soleil thus wants to be a leading ambassador, a plus in our efforts to make the Berthierville driver and her exploits known to the youngest," said the museum director, Alain Bellehumeur.



Next Race: The Calabogie Cup Race Weekend!

The next Micra Cup event will be held in five weeks, between August 28 and 30, during the Calabogie Cup Race Weekend at the Calabogie Motorsports Park, south-west of Ottawa. Marking the fourth time the Nissan Micra Cup will be held on the track in Ontario. 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 in Canada. Over the three-day event, the drivers will have no less than 250 minutes on the track!



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

When we look at the championship's entry list, we notice that there are nearly thirty drivers this year, including nine rookies. Is this a surprise for you or did you expect it considering the series' popularity?

The situation is really special this year. Before the COVID-19 pandemic, many new drivers had expressed their interest in joining our series, especially with the addition of the Grand Prix du Canada on the season schedule. Then came this forced break and obviously everyone had questions. But now that we have resumed activities, we see that we have not lost any competitors and there are still as many drivers who want to participate in the series. I honestly admit, even I am a little surprised, but I imagine the low budgets that a season of the Nissan Micra Cup requires makes us much less vulnerable than other series which cost much more.

The visibility of the series has always been important but this year there is something new: the Nissan Micra Cup will have its own show on RDS. Can you explain the concept of these TV programs?

I worked with RDS to offer them a "turnkey" concept. These will be thirty-minute shows which will include interviews, the best moments of the qualifications and of course, the highlights and race results. I think it creates very good visibility for the Nissan Micra Cup, our drivers and partners; it's something we've never had before. Given the current health situation and with the races taking place behind closed doors, the show offers a great addition for all the fans who cannot be at the track. Obviously, people will



have access to a lot of information and the results during the race weekends through our social media accounts, but they will also be able to discover these shows on RDS network later, giving spectators a new way to enjoy the series.

Following the cancellation of the races scheduled at Canadian Tire Motorsport Park, the Grand Prix of Trois-Rivières and now the Grand Prix du Canada, the Nissan Micra Cup will have fewer

events this season. To make up for these cancellations, could a new event be added to the calendar?

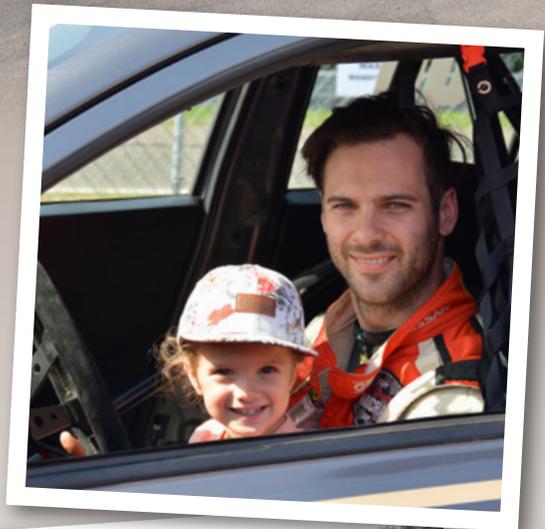
Given the cancellation of the Grand Prix du Canada earlier this week, we are indeed working on an alternative solution to maintain a fourth event on the 2020 race schedule. I will be able to announce the good news very soon. We want to offer our competitors a minimum of eight races this season, that is a sure thing.



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POSTCARD
OF THE SUMMER CLASSIC





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CIRCUIT MONT-TREMBLANT RACE 1 AND 2 RESULTS

QUALIFICATION RACE 1

1) Jesse Lazare	#21
2) Kevin King	#40
3) Valérie Limoges	#220
4) Éric Chaput	#116
5) Taylor Near	#58
6) Charles Robin	#7
7) Gavin Sanders	#10
8) Samuel Rowe	#23
9) Frédéric Bernier	#28
10) André Lapointe	#47
11) Francis Bellerive	#36
12) Sylvain Ouellet	#98
13) Nicolas Barrette	#427
14) Justin Di Benedetto	#4
15) Sacha Gagnon	#27
16) Mario Charette	#728
17) François-Xavier Lassus	#6
18) Mark Davis	#31
19) Michel Barrette	#57
20) Raphaël St-Pierre	#19
21) Marie-Josée Massicotte	#53
22) Marie-Soleil Labelle	#999

QUALIFICATION RACE 2

1) Jesse Lazare	#21
2) Kevin King	#40
3) Valérie Limoges	#220
4) Gavin Sanders	#10
5) Justin Di Benedetto	#4
6) Charles Robin	#7
7) Francis Bellerive	#36
8) Taylor Near	#58
9) Sacha Gagnon	#27
10) Éric Chaput	#116
11) Frédéric Bernier	#28
12) André Lapointe	#47
13) Mario Berthiaume	#728
14) Samuel Rowe	#23
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16) Mark Davis	#31
17) François-Xavier Lassus	#6
18) Raphaël St-Pierre	#19
19) Michel Barrette	#57
20) Marie-Josée Massicotte	#53
21) Marie-Soleil Labelle	#999
DSQ) Sylvain Ouellet	#98

RACE 1

1) Kevin King	20 laps
2) Jesse Lazare	-0.377
3) Valérie Limoges	-18.258
4) Taylor Near	-23.817
5) Charles Robin	-24.430
6) Sylvain Ouellet	-29.211
7) Éric Chaput	Penalty
8) Gavin Sanders	-29.473
9) Frédéric Bernier	-29.853
10) André Lapointe	-46.977
11) Francis Bellerive	-1:00.600
12) Justin Di Benedetto	-1:01.100
13) Mark Davis	-1:03.934
14) Mario Charette	-1:04.402
15) François-Xavier Lassus	-1:22.550
16) Raphaël St-Pierre	-1:59.100
17) Michel Barrette	-1 lap
18) Marie-Josée Massicotte	-2 laps
19) Nicolas Barrette	-3 laps
20) Marie-Soleil Labelle	-3 laps
21) Samuel Rowe	-4 laps
22) Sacha Gagnon	-13 laps

RACE 2

1) Kevin King	11 laps
2) Jesse Lazare	-0.628
3) Valérie Limoges	-0.930
4) Taylor Near	-1.413
5) Gavin Sanders	-1.920
6) Frédéric Bernier	-2.786
7) Éric Chaput	-3.239
8) André Lapointe	-3.812
9) Sylvain Ouellet	-4.516
10) Justin Di Benedetto	-5.069
11) Mario Berthiaume	-5.651
12) Francis Bellerive	-6.405
13) Samuel Rowe	-7.016
14) Sacha Gagnon	-7.786
15) Nicolas Barrette	-8.424
16) Mark Davis	-9.103
17) Raphaël St-Pierre	-9.631
18) Michel Barrette	-10.671
19) Marie-Josée Massicotte	-42.236
20) Marie-Soleil Labelle	-1 lap
21) Charles Robin	-2 laps
22) François-Xavier Lassus	-3 laps



DRIVERS STANDINGS

1) Kevin King	82 points	13) Mark Davis (rookie)	13 points
2) Jesse Lazare	76 points	14) Samuel Rowe (rookie)	10 points
3) Valérie Limoges	64 points	14) Mario Berthiaume (Senior)	10 points
4) Taylor Near	56 points	16) Raphaël St-Pierre (rookie)	9 points
5) Gavin Sanders (rookie)	40 points	16) Nicolas Barrette	9 points
6) Éric Chaput (Senior)	36 points	16) Sacha Gagnon (Senior)	9 points
7) Sylvain Ouellet (Senior)	34 points	19) François-Xavier Lassus (Senior)	8 points
7) Frédéric Bernier (Senior)	34 points	20) Mario Charette (Senior)	7 points
9) Charles Robin	28 points	20) Michel Barrette (Senior)	7 points
9) André Lapointe (Senior)	28 points	22) Marie-Josée Massicotte (R.+S.)	6 points
11) Justin Di Benedetto (rookie)	21 points	22) Marie-Soleil Labelle (rookie)	6 points
12) Francis Bellerive (rookie)	19 points		

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