



# MICRA CUP

## MAGAZINE



**CIRCUIT ICAR**

*SEPTEMBER 11-12, 2020*

**EVENT**

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**Mobil 1**



## Kevin King and Jesse Lazare take home Nissan Micra Cup victories

- Exciting battles throughout rounds five and six of the 2020 Nissan Micra Cup at Circuit ICAR -

This Saturday, the Nissan Micra Cup competitors raced in rounds five and six of the 2020 championship at Circuit ICAR – the previous grounds of the Montréal-Mirabel International Airport. Not only was this the first time that the popular Canadian spec racing series hosted an event at Circuit ICAR, it was also a double duty day for the drivers as they took on two races in the same day!

Beautiful weather accompanied the event as the Nissan Micra Cup served the main feature of the day. Drivers and teams kept busy with two qualifying sessions, immediately followed by the two races. Kevin King won the first race of the day, extending his lead on the points table, while Jesse Lazare finally broke into the winner's circle, securing his first victory of the season in the second race.

Compared to the previous road courses in series, Circuit ICAR's track surface is made of concrete, not asphalt, offering a different level of grip. The Nissan Micra Cup cars are identical for all drivers and for that reason, pure driving talent and a strong understanding of tire pressure were key factors to success.

The qualifying round for the first race saw Jesse Lazare capture pole position ahead of championship leader, Kevin King. Young Ontario driver, Gavin Sanders, proved his ambitions by finishing third, ahead of Valérie Limoges, Justin Di Benedetto and Mark Davis. Young driver Justin Arseneau qualified seventh in the first race and performed even better during the second session, placing fourth behind Jesse Lazare, Kevin King and Valérie

Limoges. At just 15 years old, Justin Arseneau is now the youngest driver in the history of the Nissan Micra Cup.

The first race of the event, held early afternoon, quickly turned into another epic battle between Jesse Lazare and Kevin King – marking the fifth battle in five races so far this season. At the two-thirds point of the race, Kevin King slipped ahead of Jesse Lazare into the lead position with a breathtaking overtaking maneuver.

The battle for third place was equally as intense between Valérie Limoges, Justin Arseneau and Gavin Sanders. As Gavin Sanders captured his second podium in three races, Valérie Limoges, Justin Arseneau, Mark Davis, Justin Di Benedetto, Sylvain Ouellet, Nicolas Barrette and Frédéric Bernier completing the top ten.

After a short two-hour break, the second race started on Circuit ICAR's long track once again. Jesse Lazare secured his first 2020 victory from the start by benefitting from a great breakaway, and managed to pull ahead of Valérie Limoges, who overtook Kevin King going into the first turn. King eventually passed Valérie Limoges and caught up to Jesse Lazare, who was in the lead with just a few laps remaining. This time though, Kevin King was unable to perform the magnificent passing maneuver from the previous race, and Lazare, the winner of the 2017 Daytona 24 Hours, finished first ahead of his rival for the title.

Valérie Limoges arrived in third place, just four-tenths of a second ahead of Sanders. Mark Davis, Justin Arseneau, Samuel Rowe and Justin Di Benedetto completed the top eight. Frédéric Bernier finished ninth overall, but first in the Senior class, ahead of Mario Berthiaume who collected his first top ten of the season.





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# IN THE NISSAN MICRA CUP WORLD



## Justin Arseneau: The 15 year-old's debut in the Nissan Micra Cup!

Less than two months after the Nissan Micra Cup welcomed its first 16-year-old driver, Marie-Soleil Labelle, that record was broken. On Saturday, Justin Arseneau, 15, became the youngest driver to compete in the series at the Circuit ICAR. As his family owns Circuit ICAR, Arseneau knows the track perfectly, allowing him to shine for his Nissan Micra Cup debut, finishing races in fifth and sixth place. Since Arseneau's only prior racing experience has been in karting, he is considered a rookie in the Micra Cup. Regardless, the young driver could also compete next year in an Open Wheel Series, as part of the United States Formula 4 Championship.

## Circuit ICAR: The seventh racetrack visited in six years

This weekend, Circuit ICAR became the seventh racetrack to host the original Nissan Micra Cup series in its entire six-year history. Over the years, the Micra Cup has hosted events at Circuit Mont-Tremblant, Circuit Gilles-Villeneuve as a part of the Formula 1 Grand Prix du Canada, Autodrome St-Eustache, Grand Prix de Trois-Rivières, Calabogie Motorsports Park and Canadian Tire Motorsport Park. This weekend, the Nissan Micra Cup raced where Boeing 747s and Airbus A340s used to park, as only a few years ago, the Montreal-Mirabel International Airport's runways were converted into the Circuit ICAR racetracks. Today, Circuit ICAR is mostly used for testing and launching vehicles, but it attracts many motorsport series as well. In addition, a driving school and a local NASCAR championship are also organized there.

## Day of celebration for Éric Chaput!

Éric Chaput, a leading candidate for the Senior Class title, celebrated his 48<sup>th</sup> birthday this Friday. His coworkers decided to surprise him and celebrate his birthday the day before with a very original piece of pastry, marked with his Nissan Micra number, 116, placed on top of a cake in icing. No doubt, other drivers and the organizers of the series would have liked a slice! However, on the track Chaput had a very disappointing run, having to retire in both races. Despite that, he still remains a title contender for the Senior class title.



## Next event: The Grand Final at Mont-Tremblant...

The Nissan Micra Cup will mark its comeback to the heart of the Laurentian mountains in Quebec with the grand finale of the 2020 season! The event is scheduled to take place from September 25-27, at Circuit Mont-Tremblant. The grand finale, named the Fall Classic, will see the final seventh and eighth races of the 2020 season. This is where the champions will be crowned, together with the rookie of the year and the Senior Class champion. If spectators cannot be admitted to the final event, Micra Cup TV, RDS and the Micra Cups' social media will once again capture the big event!



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## 2...3 QUESTIONS TO *THE HOSTS OF THE NISSAN MICRA CUP ON RDS!*

The 2020 season of the Nissan Micra Cup will conclude with its final race at the end of September, but the action will continue this fall on Réseau Des Sports (RDS) in Quebec! The Nissan Micra Cup will have each of its eight races this season featured in 30-minute shows on RDS.

Jacques Deshaies, journalist and promoter of the series, and Philippe Brasseur, publisher of the Canadian motorsport magazine Pole-Position, will host the programs. Both are regulars on the RDS channel. They tell us about how the additional visibility will bring the series to a wider audience.

***Will each race in the 2020 Nissan Micra Cup season be featured in a separate broadcast?***

**Philippe Brasseur:** Yes – but these will not only include the highlights of the races. The eight shows are produced by NV Productions and directed by the same team as Micra Cup TV. The episodes will showcase the entire Nissan Micra Cup: the atmosphere, the family side of the paddocks, and a lot of interviews too – all this in addition to highlights from the qualification rounds and races. In fact, each race will have its own show, but each episode will introduce the Nissan Micra Cup to the general public and sports fans who watch RDS in a unique way.

***When will the episodes be released?***

**Jacques Deshaies:** The shows will all be 30 minutes long and will be broadcasted on RDS starting October 25<sup>th</sup> at 11am on RDS2. The next shows will be at the same time November 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29, then December 6 and 13. Fans will have the opportunity to experience the intensity of the 2020 season as you would see it live at the race venues – very thrilling. Objectively, I think that offering these shows to Micra Cup fans as well as regular RDS viewers is a big plus for Canadian motorsport awareness. Episodes will include insights from the races and will take a look



behind the scenes of the Nissan Micra Cup – we are proud to offer the shows that are coming this fall.

***Since fans cannot be present at the events this year, would it have been possible to present the races live?***

**Philippe Brasseur:** No, because they require completely different logistics. Nevertheless, Jacques and I do see the preview and the ending of each show on-cam at the track on the day of the races. We will host the shows live, which will allow for fans to experience the

racing atmosphere better. Do not forget that this is a special season! It is outstanding that Nissan Canada has been able to maintain the same level of excellence in the series, with eight races in total this season. If you compare the Nissan Micra Cup with other racing series in Canada like NASCAR, which has six races in total, or the F1600 Canada and even the Canadian Rally Championship, which had its season reduced to five rounds, the Nissan Micra Cup clearly came out on top with the most races. Also, becoming one of the few motorsport competitions presented on RDS is another success to highlight.



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POSTCARD  
OF THE  
CIRCUIT ICAR





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# CIRCUIT ICAR RACE 5 AND 6 RESULTS

## QUALIFICATION RACE 1

1) Jesse Lazare	#21
2) Kevin King	#40
3) Gavin Sanders	#10
4) Valérie Limoges	#220
5) Justin Di Benedetto	#4
6) Mark Davis	#31
7) Justin Arseneau	#73
8) Taylor Near	#58
9) Frédéric Bernier	#28
10) André Lapointe	#47
11) Mario Charette	#728
12) Éric Chaput	#116
13) Nicolas Barrette	#427
14) François-Xavier Lassus	#6
15) Sylvain Ouellet	#98
16) Raphaël St-Pierre	#419
17) Mario Dufour	#96
18) Marie-Josée Massicotte	#53
19) Marie-Soleil Labelle	#999
20) Samuel Rowe	#23

## QUALIFICATION RACE 2

1) Jesse Lazare	#21
2) Kevin King	#40
3) Valérie Limoges	#220
4) Justin Arseneau	#73
5) Gavin Sanders	#10
6) Justin Di Benedetto	#4
7) Taylor Near	#58
8) Éric Chaput	#116
9) Mark Davis	#31
10) Nicolas Barrette	#427
11) Samuel Rowe	#23
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16) François-Xavier Lassus	#6
17) Raphaël St-Pierre	#419
18) Mario Dufour	#96
19) Marie-Josée Massicotte	#53
20) Marie-Soleil Labelle	#999

## RACE 1

1) Kevin King	15 laps
2) Jesse Lazare	-0.504
3) Gavin Sanders	-2.921
4) Valérie Limoges	-5.071
5) Justin Arseneau	-6.308
6) Mark Davis	-10.434
7) Justin Di Benedetto	-10.855
8) Sylvain Ouellet	-22.529
9) Nicolas Barrette	-24.158
10) Frédéric Bernier	-35.297
11) Samuel Rowe	Penalty
12) François-Xavier Lassus	-35.741
13) Mario Charette	-37.181
14) Taylor Near	-52.592
15) Raphaël St-Pierre	-53.758
16) Mario Dufour	-1:05.749
17) Marie-Josée Massicotte	-1:27.930
18) Marie-Soleil Labelle	-1 lap
19) André Lapointe	-15 laps
20) Éric Chaput	-15 laps

## RACE 2

1) Jesse Lazare	23 laps
2) Kevin King	-0.772
3) Valérie Limoges	-13.200
4) Gavin Sanders	-13.657
5) Mark Davis	-22.666
6) Justin Arseneau	-23.480
7) Samuel Rowe	-33.243
8) Justin Di Benedetto	-34.086
9) Frédéric Bernier	-34.727
10) Mario Berthiaume	-1:02.336
11) François-Xavier Lassus	-1:06.038
12) Taylor Near	-1:33.222
13) Sylvain Ouellet	Penalty
14) Raphaël St-Pierre	-1:34.347
15) Marie-Josée Massicotte	-1 lap
16) Marie-Soleil Labelle	-2 laps
17) Nicolas Barrette	-14 laps
18) Mario Dufour	-14 laps
19) Éric Chaput	-16 laps
20) André Lapointe	Did not start



## DRIVERS STANDINGS

1) Kevin King	246 points	13) Samuel Rowe (rookie)	44 points
2) Jesse Lazare	216 points	13) Justin Arseneau (rookie)	44 points
3) Valérie Limoges	184 points	16) Mario Berthiaume (Senior)	32 points
4) Gavin Sanders (rookie)	160 points	17) Francis Bellerive (rookie)	31 points
5) Taylor Near	120 points	18) Marie-Josée Massicotte (R.+S.)	29 points
6) Justin Di Benedetto (rookie)	111 points	19) Charles Robin	28 points
7) Frédéric Bernier (Senior)	88 points	20) Marie-Soleil Labelle (rookie)	25 points
8) Sylvain Ouellet (Senior)	86 points	21) Mario Charette (Senior)	23 points
9) Mark Davis (rookie)	76 points	22) Raphaël St-Pierre (rookie)	22 points
10) Éric Chaput (Senior)	74 points	23) Sacha Gagnon (Senior)	9 points
11) François-Xavier Lassus (Senior)	47 points	24) Mario Dufour (R.+S.)	8 points
12) Nicolas Barrette	45 points	25) Michel Barrette (Senior)	7 points
13) André Lapointe (Senior)	44 points		

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