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SENTRA CUP MAGAZINE

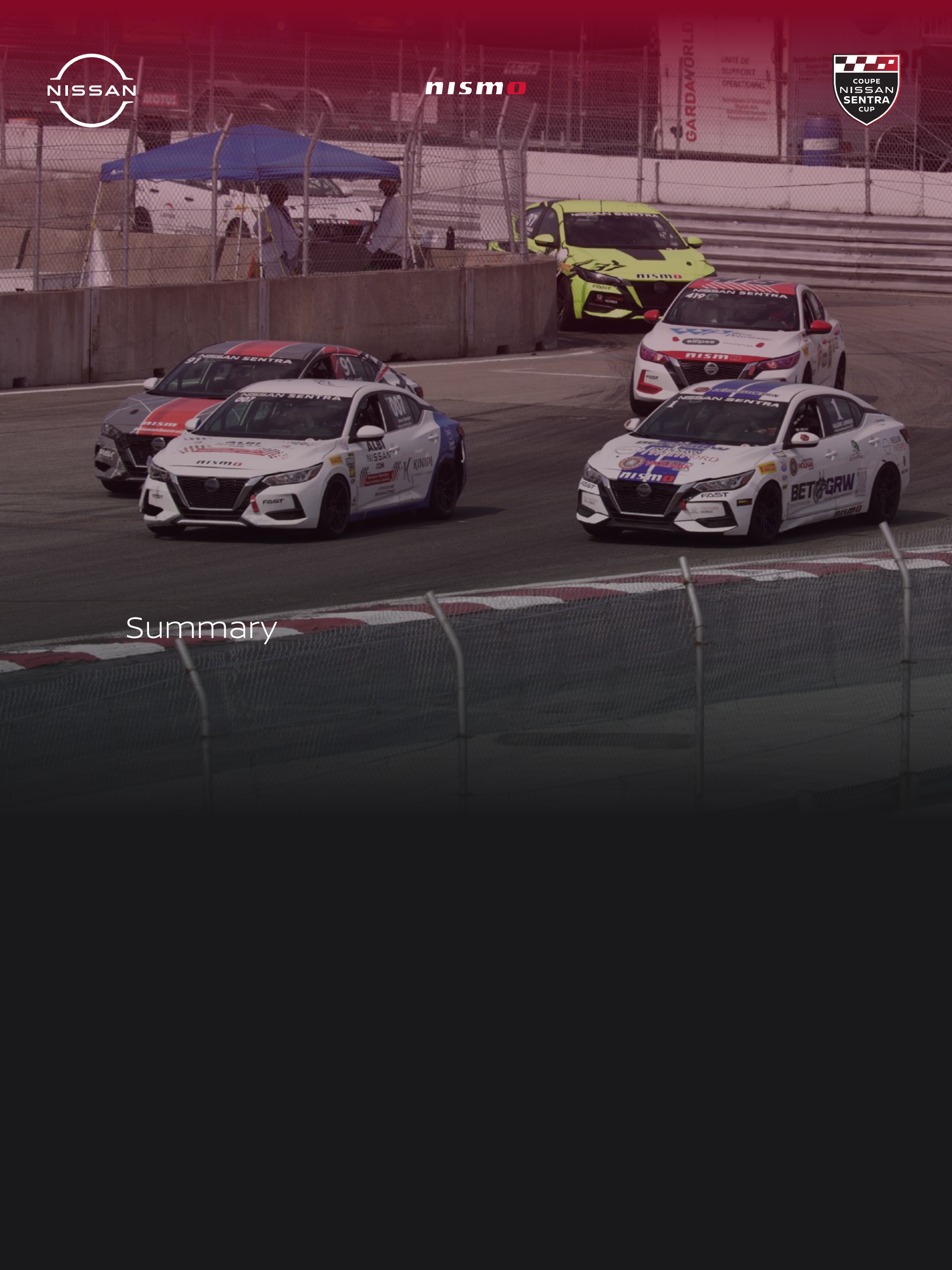


EVENT 4

Grand Prix de Trois-Rivières
Trois-Rivières, QC
AUGUST 8-9-10, 2025



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Summary


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Triple Victory for Frédérick Chaput at GP3R in the Nissan Sentra Cup; Bruno Spengler on the Podium

Three spectacular Nissan Sentra Cup races took place this weekend at the Grand Prix de Trois-Rivières

For the first time in its history, the Nissan Sentra Cup featured three races as part of the 55th edition of the Grand Prix de Trois-Rivières. The event, held in front of tens of thousands of spectators, saw Frédérick Chaput claim victory on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Meanwhile, international driver and DTM champion Bruno Spengler impressed with three Top 5 finishes, including a podium on Sunday.

On Friday, qualifying saw Frédérick Chaput — winner of the 2024 season finale, returning to the series at GP3R this year — surprise the favourites and secure pole position for the first two races, ahead of Nicolas Barrette and Trois-Rivières native Nicolas Lévesque. The first race, held at sunset, featured an impressive battle between Chaput and Barrette, with Barrette taking the early lead before Chaput regained control shortly after mid-race.

A few laps later, Valérie Limoges and Barrette made contact while battling for second place, forcing Barrette to retire. Meanwhile, Bruno Spengler, starting cautiously from sixth on the grid, gradually made his way toward the front.

At the finish, Frédérick Chaput won the race in his first 2025 start in the series. Nicolas Lévesque, Valérie Limoges, and Bruno Spengler completed the Top 4, ahead of Raphaël St-Pierre.

Championship leader Simon Vincent, forced to start sixteenth due to a transponder issue during qualifying (which records lap times), gained ten positions to finish sixth, ahead of Jean-François Couture, Steve Poulin, Mathieu Lemyre, and Jean Audet. Making his debut in the Nissan Sentra Cup, at GP3R, as well as a Canadian racing event, American driver Andrew Burke finished eleventh.





On Saturday, the second of the three races saw, Frédéric Chaput start from pole once again, aiming to secure a second GP3R victory — surpassing his father Éric Chaput, who won in the Nissan Sentra Cup at this same event last year.

This time, Frédéric Chaput led from start to finish, delivering a win. The battle behind him kept the large crowd in the stands and VIP boxes on edge. With a spectacular overtake on Nicolas Lévesque, Nicolas Barrette secured second place. Lévesque completed the podium, ahead of Bruno Spengler, who battled throughout the race with Raphaël St-Pierre and Valérie Limoges, who finished fifth and sixth, respectively. Steve Poulin, Jean-François Couture, Mathieu Lemyre, and Stéphane Pouliot rounded out the Top 10.

On Sunday, the third race saw Frédéric Chaput continue his winning streak, claiming yet another victory after withstanding pressure from Nicolas Barrette all the way to the checkered flag.

The battle for third place was one of the most intense of the season. Determined to finish the event with a podium, Bruno Spengler used all his experience to pass his direct rivals and fought to the end against Valérie Limoges and Simon Vincent, who finished fourth and fifth.

Raphaël St-Pierre, Steve Poulin, Jean-François Couture, Stéphane Pouliot, and Jean Audet completed the Top 10, ahead of another international newcomer, American Andrew Burke. In the drivers' championship, Simon Vincent remains the leader, though his lead over Valérie Limoges has narrowed — with only two races remaining in the season.

For more information on the Nissan Sentra Cup, visit sentracup.com and follow the series on social media. To relive the 2024 season races in video, visit [the Nissan Sentra Cup YouTube page](#).


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BRUNO SPENGLER :

The guest star of the Nissan Sentra Cup!



Canadian driver Bruno Spengler made a memorable debut in the Nissan Sentra Cup at the Grand Prix de Trois-Rivières, bringing star power to the 2025 GP3R.

Born in France and having spent the majority of his career competing in Europe's top touring car and endurance championships, Spengler was invited by JD Promotion-Compétition, the organization led by promoter Jacques Deshaies. The 2012 DTM champion quickly became the headline attraction of the event. A former North American Formula Renault champion, Spengler impressed fans not only with his skill behind the wheel—scoring three Top 5 finishes, including a podium on Sunday—but also with his approachable and friendly presence in the bustling Nissan Sentra Cup paddock, which welcomed tens of thousands of spectators.

Bruno, what was the biggest discovery for you: the Nissan Sentra race car or the GP3R track?

I'd say it was driving a front-wheel-drive car. I've had to adapt to new tracks many times in my career, so that part comes fairly quickly. But until now, I had only driven rear-wheel-drive cars with a lot of power. The Nissan Sentras may be close to stock production cars, but adapting to the driving style they require to be competitive against the excellent drivers in the series was a good challenge.



Did you get a chance to drive the No. 007 Sentra before arriving at the Grand Prix de Trois-Rivières?

The plan was to have half a day of testing with the car at the ICAR Complex on Wednesday, to get a feel for it. Unfortunately, I only did two laps before encountering a problem, so no – I didn't really know the car and only discovered it on Friday during qualifying. But it's a responsive, agile car. A street circuit like GP3R helps you adapt quite quickly.

How did your three races go?

Pretty well for the first two and really well for the third! Considering how little time I had to learn the car and track, finishing twice in 4th and once in 3rd is satisfying. We had very good setup adjustments from the second race onward. I even think that without that last caution, I could have fought for the podium because I could see the top three slowing and I was catching them. On Sunday, I really pushed hard in the third race to get that podium spot. I wanted it! My front bumper got damaged when Nicolas Lévesque bounced off the wall in front of me, and the rear bumper had been hit by another driver early in the race. That meant I was losing a bit of speed on the straights with those loose bumpers. But I managed to hold on



until the end to keep 3rd place. I'm happy, especially considering I was up against drivers who know both the Sentra and the circuit very well.

Your final impressions of the weekend?

I loved the experience. The Trois-Rivières track layout is a personal favourite. The packed grandstands, the fans – everything was exceptional. I enjoyed battling with the other Nissan Sentra Cup drivers and I thank Jacques Deshaies and JD Promotion-Compétition, the GP3R, and Nissan Canada for giving me the opportunity to take part in this event.


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GP3R News in Brief

A TRIPLE CHAMPION RETURNS!

Initially, the #20 Nissan Sentra was supposed to be driven by Radio host Benoît Gagnon and comedian Michel Barrette. Unfortunately, Barrette—who had competed in the series back in the Micra Cup days but never yet in a Sentra—was unable to try out the car on the Wednesday before the event as originally planned. He therefore wisely decided not to take part. Benoît Gagnon, for his part, was unavailable for qualifying and only took the wheel in Friday's and Saturday's races. The Sunday race was ultimately offered to Olivier Bédard, triple Nissan Micra Cup champion in 2015, 2017, and 2018. "I really enjoyed my experience in the Sentra, but unfortunately a mechanical issue forced me to retire quite early in the race. It's a shame, because those few laps in competition at the wheel of the Sentra really appealed to me and made me want to drive the car again someday," said Olivier Bédard.



SENTRA RACE VERSION AND... PEDAL-POWERED!

Competing in front of his home crowd, Trois-Rivières driver Nicolas Lévesque enjoyed an excellent start to his weekend with second place on Friday and third on Saturday, before sadly making a small driving mistake on Sunday that led to contact with the wall and an early retirement. In the paddock, aside from the superb livery of his race Sentra, everyone admired the miniature version of his car—his son's pedal car, painted in identical colors. Both models were a hit with fans!



DEBUT FOR AMERICAN DRIVER ANDREW BURKE

Besides Bruno Spengler, another driver made his series debut at GP3R: American Andrew Burke. Based in Sarasota, Florida, he had long dreamed of competing at least once in his life at this major Canadian motorsport event. He finally got to do it in the Nissan Sentra Cup!

It was thanks to three-time NASCAR Canada champion Louis-Philippe Dumoulin (younger brother of Jean-François Dumoulin, who developed the first Micras and later the Sentras for the series) that Burke discovered both the event and the series: "I came to GP3R a few times to watch Louis-Philippe race in NASCAR Canada. That's when



I saw the Micras from the series and thought I should try it one day, just for fun. Then COVID restrictions happened, I stopped coming to GP3R, and the idea of racing in Canada faded away."

But this year, Andrew Burke decided to return to cheer on Dumoulin—while keeping in mind the idea of racing himself. "I asked Louis-Philippe if it might be possible to find me a seat in a Canadian series. The most accessible was obviously the Nissan Sentra Cup, and I was put in touch with series promoter Jacques Deshaies. After that call, I signed up for GP3R without ever having raced in the series before, or on the Trois-Rivières track."

Before his Sentra Cup debut, Andrew Burke had competed in the prestigious American Historic Sportscar Racing (HSR) series and the National Vintage Racing Association (NVRA).

He then joined the Porsche Club in the U.S. "I also raced in NASA (National Auto Sport Association) events with a GT car. All of it, just for fun. And that's exactly what I found again in Trois-Rivières and in the Nissan Sentra Cup paddock. It's very friendly—people talk to each other, help each other—it's fun! You race during the day, then head downtown in the evening to eat with great people. It's truly a beautiful event with an amazing atmosphere," he said.

Andrew finished all three races just outside the top 10 (11th, 12th, 11th). "I didn't expect it to be so competitive. These are all excellent drivers. Some people told me it wouldn't feel fast in a Sentra compared to what I'd raced before. But you don't need 400 horsepower—when you're battling drivers with the same power, the same tires, it's always fun. The car is really enjoyable to drive, and the track was far more interesting than I expected. I loved the experience," he concluded.



Results and standings

Grand Prix de Trois-Rivières - Event 4

RACE 1

QUALIFICATION

- 1) Frédéric Chaput
- 2) Nicolas Barrette
- 3) Nicolas Lévesque
- 4) Valérie Limoges
- 5) Marc-Antoine D'Amour
- 6) Bruno Spengler
- 7) Raphaël St-Pierre
- 8) Steve Poulin
- 9) Stéphane Pouliot
- 10) Jean-François Couture
- 11) Jean Audet
- 12) Mathieu Lemyre
- 13) Andrew Burke
- 14) François Bourassa
- 15) Pierre-Olivier Paquette
- 16) Simon Vincent
- Did not start) Benoît Gagnon

RESULTS

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------|
| 1) Frédéric Chaput | 25 laps |
| 2) Nicolas Lévesque | -1.875 |
| 3) Valérie Limoges | -2.451 |
| 4) Bruno Spengler | -2.943 |
| 5) Raphaël St-Pierre | -11.042 |
| 6) Simon Vincent | -20.339 |
| 7) Jean-François Couture | -28.645 |
| 8) Steve Poulin | -32.887 |
| 9) Mathieu Lemyre | -33.839 |
| 10) Jean Audet | -36.778 |
| 11) Andrew Burke | -39.804 |
| 12) Marc-Antoine D'Amour | -40.828 |
| 13) François Bourassa | -42.829 |
| 14) Stéphane Pouliot | -43.649 |
| 15) Pierre-Olivier Paquette | -5 laps |
| 16) Benoît Gagnon | -9 laps |
| 17) Nicolas Barrette | -17 laps |

RACE 2

QUALIFICATION

- 1) Frédéric Chaput
- 2) Nicolas Barrette
- 3) Nicolas Lévesque
- 4) Marc-Antoine D'Amour
- 5) Valérie Limoges
- 6) Bruno Spengler
- 7) Raphaël St-Pierre
- 8) Steve Poulin
- 9) Jean-François Couture
- 10) Jean Audet
- 11) Mathieu Lemyre
- 12) Stéphane Pouliot
- 13) Andrew Burke
- 14) François Bourassa
- 15) Pierre-Olivier Paquette
- 16) Simon Vincent
- Did not start) Benoît Gagnon

RESULTS

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------|
| 1) Frédéric Chaput | 23 laps |
| 2) Nicolas Barrette | -0.818 |
| 3) Nicolas Lévesque | -1.001 |
| 4) Bruno Spengler | -1.534 |
| 5) Raphaël St-Pierre | -3.036 |
| 6) Valérie Limoges | -3.655 |
| 7) Steve Poulin | -6.485 |
| 8) Jean-François Couture | -7.315 |
| 9) Mathieu Lemyre | -8.106 |
| 10) Stéphane Pouliot | -8.793 |
| 11) Jean Audet | -10.133 |
| 12) Andrew Burke | -11.138 |
| 13) François Bourassa | -14.390 |
| 14) Pierre-Olivier Paquette | -17.072 |
| 15) Benoît Gagnon | -8 laps |
| 16) Simon Vincent | -9 laps |
| 17) Marc-Antoine D'Amour | -17 laps |

RACE 3

QUALIFICATION

- 1) Frédéric Chaput
- 2) Nicolas Barrette
- 3) Nicolas Lévesque
- 4) Marc-Antoine D'Amour
- 5) Bruno Spengler
- 6) Valérie Limoges
- 7) Simon Vincent
- 8) Raphaël St-Pierre
- 9) Jean-François Couture
- 10) Steve Poulin
- 11) Stéphane Pouliot
- 12) Mathieu Lemyre
- 13) François Bourassa
- 14) Jean Audet
- 15) Andrew Burke
- 16) Pierre-Olivier Paquette
- Did not start) Olivier Bédard

RESULTS

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------|
| 1) Frédéric Chaput | 23 laps |
| 2) Nicolas Barrette | -1.374 |
| 3) Bruno Spengler | -10.324 |
| 4) Valérie Limoges | -10.589 |
| 5) Simon Vincent | -10.901 |
| 6) Raphaël St-Pierre | -11.853 |
| 7) Steve Poulin | -19.597 |
| 8) Jean-François Couture | -21.648 |
| 9) Stéphane Pouliot | -21.726 |
| 10) Jean Audet | -22.258 |
| 11) Andrew Burke | -25.360 |
| 12) Pierre-Olivier Paquette | -25.852 |
| 13) Mathieu Lemyre | -2 laps |
| 14) François Bourassa | -7 laps |
| 15) Nicolas Lévesque | -11 laps |
| 16) Olivier Bédard | -15 laps |
| 17) Marc-Antoine D'Amour | -17 laps |





Results and standings

■ Grand Prix de Trois-Rivières - Event 4



CHAMPIONSHIP STANDINGS				
Position	#	Driver	Races	Points
1.	91	Simon Vincent	10	581
2.	1	Valérie Limoges	10	560
3.	427	Nicolas Barrette	10	523
4.	50	Nicolas Lévesque	10	462
5.	419	Raphaël St-Pierre	10	456
6.	113	Marc-Antoine D'Amour	10	404
7.	37	Steve Poulin	10	350
8.	210	Stéphane Pouliot	10	308
9.	27	François Bourassa	10	284
10.	22	Jean Audet	8	265
11.	46	Christian Thibault	5	184
12.	7	Jean-François Couture	6	162
13.	428	Sean Scully	3	152
14.	87	Mathieu Lemyre	5	130
15.	3	Pierre-Olivier Paquette	5	103
16.	116	Éric Chaput	1	38
16.	116	Sylvain Ouellet	1	38
18.	95	Baptiste Gimenez	0	0

Do not score points
(drivers entered in the GP3R only):

- 20.Benoît Gagnon / Olivier Bédard
- 63.Frédéric Chaput
- 95. Andrew Burke
- 007.Bruno Spengler





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The next event will take place on August 29, 30 and 31 at Canadian Tire Motorsport Park. For this return to Ontario, two races will be on the program for the Labour Day Weekend SpeedFest, and they will serve as the grand finale of the 2025 Nissan Sentra Cup season. The title will be decided between Simon Vincent, Valérie Limoges and Nicolas Barrette.



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