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SENTRA CUP

MAGAZINE

Event 1

Shannonville Motorsport Park, ON
June 25 - 26 - 27, 2021





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Summary



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Nissan Sentra Cup celebrates its first winners of 2021!

- Gavin Sanders is overall winner of the opening two races of the season at Shannonville Motorsport Park -

The Nissan Sentra Cup officially kicked off this past weekend, with 24 competitors hitting the track at Shannonville Motorsport Park near Belleville, Ontario. This inaugural event was highly symbolic, as it was not only the very first race in the history of the new Canadian motorsport series, but also the racing debut of the Nissan Sentra.

The Sentras clocked faster lap times than in pre-season testing and were masterly driven by talented Canadian drivers from Ontario, Québec and British Columbia. In the end, Ontario's Gavin Sanders won both races.

Saturday's first qualifying session was disrupted by a brief rain shower but saw young Ontario driver Gavin Sanders display his great skills. The Sanders Motorsports / SPI Racing driver captured the pole position ahead of Jesse Lazare, Kevin King - the 2020 Nissan Micra Cup champion - and three of the 11 rookie drivers entered in the race, Owen Clarke, Kai Dalziel and Alexandre Fortin.



Saturday's race turned into a fierce battle for the victory between Sanders and King. Despite the intense pressure King put on him, Gavin Sanders did not make a single mistake and won the 40-minute race by a thin margin of 987 thousandths of a second. Former 24 Hours of Daytona winner Jesse Lazare rounded out the podium, while Valérie Limoges finished fourth, edging out rookie Alexandre Fortin and Éric Chaput, the winner of the Senior class for Sentra drivers 40 years and older. Rookie Nicholas Hornbostel was victorious in the Micra category ahead of veterans Frédéric Bernier and Sylvain Ouellet. The Micra class spices up the show by adding a "race within a race" to the series.

Gavin Sanders, Ontario's winning driver in the first Nissan Sentra Cup race, said "It was an awesome day for me with these new Sentras running so well. It's a great car to drive! But it was also about trying to win the first race in the history of the Nissan Sentra Cup and I'm so happy I did it. It means a lot to me. I'm really looking forward to the rest of the season!"

During the heat on Sunday, it was an all-Ontario front row for race 2 with teammates Gavin Sanders and Justin Di Benedetto setting the two fastest times in qualifying. For majority of the race, Sanders and King resumed their battle from the previous day. This time Kevin King managed to pass his rival. The battle was intense, but unfortunately the race was shortened by a few minutes due to a collision between the Micras of Frédéric Bernier and Nicolas Barrette.

Since the race was not restarted, Kevin King was declared the winner. However, he was penalised by one position due to an avoidable contact with Sanders who therefore won both opening races of the season. Justin Di Benedetto took this place ahead of Jesse Lazare and the best placed rookie, Simon Charbonneau. Valérie Limoges, Alexandre Fortin, Kai Dalziel, Éric Chaput (winner in the Senior class) and Jesse Webb completed the Top 10. In the Micra class, Nicholas Hornsbostel claimed his second consecutive victory, ahead of André Lapointe and Sylvain Ouellet.

Kevin King - the last Nissan Micra Cup champion - was obviously disappointed with the penalty but delighted with his first races in the Sentra, "The new Sentra handling is amazing. It has a perfect power-to-weight ratio and it's obviously much faster than the Micra. All in all, it's a lot of fun and I think we're going to have a great season."





WHICH SENTRA IS THE MOST BEAUTIFUL?

The twelve new Sentra on track at Shannonville.
Which one is the most beautiful?



1. Kevin King

4. Justin Di Benedetto



10. Gavin Sanders

17. Darren Graham



Which Sentra is the most beautiful?



21. Jesse Lazare

32. Alexandre Fortin



44. Kai Dalziel

88. Simon Charbonneau



94. Jesse Webb

116. Éric Chaput



220. Valérie Limoges

405. Owen Clarke





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DARREN GRAHAM,

NISSAN DEALER AND RACING DRIVER!



Darren Graham is the owner of the Applewood Group Nissan dealerships in British Columbia. But for Nissan Sentra Cup fans, he's now also the driver of the number 17 car in this inaugural season. A newcomer in motorsport, Darren enthusiastically discovered the series and his racing Sentra...

Darren, what motivates you to race in the Nissan Sentra Cup?

I own three Nissan dealerships in British Columbia and for me, it is very interesting to be involved in the Nissan Sentra Cup, it's good visibility even if the races only take place in Ontario and Quebec. I am very enthusiastic, I have a real passion for cars and especially racing cars. The Sentra Cup is a perfect promotion for the Nissan Sentra's image and sales. My favourite series of all time was the Trans Am in the '60s. They were relatively stock cars modified for the track and nothing more. Today I'm a big Sentra fan, it's a wonderful car and I was even more impressed when I saw it on a racetrack.

What is your impression of the car after this first event?

I did my first lap only on Friday, the day before the first race. I'm also a very new driver, a motorsport rookie. I have some learning to do but it was a very good first experience with the series and the racing Sentra. I have a GTR at home and it's a more forgiving car, with more driver assistance. The Nissan Sentra Cup is pure driving, so I still have a lot to learn with this car.

As a dealership owner, what positive aspects do you see with participating in the 2021 Nissan Sentra Cup season?

It is interesting that we see many manufacturers turning to SUVs now but I think it's very smart that Nissan is keeping cars in its lineup that inspire passion for automobiles, like sports cars and sedans. Most people, especially the younger generation, appreciate the sedan more. With that in mind, a sedan that has the capabilities to be both a street car and a race car is an important quality. For us in Western Canada, even though the races are in Ontario and Quebec, the Micra Cup and now Sentra Cup has a big impact everywhere in the country and we follow the social media channels a lot to get to know the series better. There is a lot of interest in the series in my opinion. I think with Jesse Webb and Jesse Lazare, my teammates, giving me some advice has helped a lot. I am trying to make everyone proud.

Would you like to see the series come to the west coast one day?

Of course, I would absolutely love to see the series come to BC. I have two new partners who are really enthusiastic about the series. So, if it comes to BC, we would sponsor more than one car for sure. It's a very affordable series and a very efficient race car. Everything is set up for its success.





RESULTS AND STANDINGS

Shannonville Motorsport Park - Event 1

QUALIFICATION RACE 1

1) Gavin Sanders	#10
2) Jesse Lazare	#21
3) Kevin King	#1
4) Owen Clarke	#405
5) Kai Dalziel	#44
6) Alexandre Fortin	#32
7) Éric Chaput	#116
8) Valérie Limoges	#220
9) Simon Charbonneau	#88
10) Jesse Webb	#94
11) Justin Di Benedetto	#4
12) Darren Graham	#17
13) Nicholas Hornbostel	#71
14) Frédéric Bernier	#28
15) André Lapointe	#47
16) Sylvain Ouellet	#98
17) Simon Vincent	#91
18) François-Angers Routhier	#90
19) Nicolas Barrette	#427
20) Mario Berthiaume	#728
21) Frédéric Chaput	#63
22) Étienne Caron	#61
23) Jean Audet	#5
24) Marie-Soleil Labelle	#999

RESULTS RACE 1

1) Gavin Sanders	20 laps
2) Kevin King	-0.987
3) Jesse Lazare	-22.490
4) Valérie Limoges	-37.836
5) Alexandre Fortin	-39.830
6) Éric Chaput	-41.192
7) Jesse Webb	-41.633
8) Simon Charbonneau	-44.024
9) Darren Graham	-1:20.400
10) Nicholas Hornbostel	-1 lap
11) Frédéric Bernier	-1 lap
12) Sylvain Ouellet	-1 lap
13) François-Angers Routhier	-1 lap
14) Nicolas Barrette	-1 lap
15) Frédéric Chaput	-1 lap
16) Mario Berthiaume	-1 lap
17) Jean Audet	-1 lap
18) Simon Vincent	-2 laps
19) Marie-Soleil Labelle	-2 laps
20) Justin Di Benedetto	-2 laps
21) Kai Dalziel	-10 laps
22) Owen Clarke	-17 laps
23) Étienne Caron	-18 laps
24) André Lapointe	Not started

QUALIFICATION RACE 2

1) Gavin Sanders	
2) Justin Di Benedetto	
3) Kevin King	
4) Alexandre Fortin	
5) Simon Charbonneau	
6) Jesse Lazare	
7) Kai Dalziel	
8) Valérie Limoges	
9) Owen Clarke	
10) Jesse Webb	
11) Éric Chaput	
12) Darren Graham	
13) Nicholas Hornbostel	
14) Frédéric Bernier	
15) André Lapointe	
16) Sylvain Ouellet	
17) Nicolas Barrette	
18) Mario Berthiaume	
19) François-Angers Routhier	
20) Simon Vincent	
21) Jean Audet	
22) Marie-Soleil Labelle	
23) Étienne Caron	
24) Frédéric Chaput	

Sanders Motorsports/SPI Racing
Di Benedetto Racing/SPI Racing
Nissan Gabriel/L&P Apparel
Fix Auto/Ste-Foy Nissan/Beauport Nissan
Équipe TransGestion Transport
Door Doctor/Motorsports In Action
Kai Dalziel Motorsport
Nissan Gabriel/Total Canada
Team Red Green
Shur Fit Racing
Chaps Racing Team
Team Applewood
Hornbostel Racing
Hi-Fi Racing
Lapspeed Performance
Ouellet Motorsport
Équipe Musée Gilles-Villeneuve
M.B. Performance
Autoclub Mtl
Vincent2 racing team
Grand Times Hôtel
Équipe Musée Gilles-Villeneuve
Caron Racing
Chaps Racing Team

RESULTS RACE 2

1) Gavin Sanders	20 laps
2) Kevin King	Penalty 1 position
3) Justin Di Benedetto	-5.197
4) Jesse Lazare	-6.871
5) Simon Charbonneau	-12.297
6) Valérie Limoges	-14.822
7) Alexandre Fortin	-15.645
8) Kai Dalziel	-22.276
9) Éric Chaput	-25.619
10) Jesse Webb	-27.550
11) Owen Clarke	-58.147
12) Darren Graham	-58.893
13) Nicholas Hornbostel	-1 lap
14) André Lapointe	-1 lap
15) Sylvain Ouellet	-1 lap
16) Jean Audet	-1 lap
17) Mario Berthiaume	-1 lap
18) François-Angers Routhier	-1 lap
19) Frédéric Chaput	-2 laps
20) Simon Vincent	-2 laps
21) Marie-Soleil Labelle	-2 laps
22) Frédéric Bernier	-3 laps
23) Nicolas Barrette	-3 laps
24) Étienne Caron	-5 laps

Nicholas Hornbostel, winner of both races in the Micra class.



Alexandre Fortin (#32), leader in the rookie standings.



The overall podium of the second race.



The Micra class field at the start of the first race of the season.

OVERALL STANDINGS

Position	#	Driver	Class	Races	Points
1.	10	Gavin Sanders		2	104
2.	1	Kevin King		2	96
3.	21	Jesse Lazare		2	80
4.	220	Valérie Limoges		2	68
5.	32	Alexandre Fortin	R	2	62
6.	88	Simon Charbonneau	R	2	60
7.	116	Éric Chaput	S	2	54
8.	4	Justin Di Benedetto		2	53
9.	94	Jesse Webb	R	2	50
10.	71	Nicholas Hornbostel	M+R	2	48
11.	17	Darren Graham	R+S	2	43
12.	44	Kai Dalziel	R	2	36
13.	98	Sylvain Ouellet	M	2	35
14.	90	François Angers-Routhier	M+R	2	31
15.	405	Owen Clarke	R	2	29
15.	28	Frédéric Bernier	M	2	29
15.	728	Mario Berthiaume	M	2	29
15.	5	Jean Audet	M	2	29
19.	63	Frédéric Chaput	M+R	2	28
20.	427	Nicolas Barrette	M	2	25
21.	91	Simon Vincent	M+R	2	24
22.	999	Marie-Soleil Labelle	M	2	22
23.	47	André Lapointe	M	1	17
24.	61	Étienne Caron	M+R	2	15

R = rookie driver; S = Senior class; M = Micra class



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NEXT EVENT

The next event will take place
July 24 to 26, as part of the Summer
Classic at Circuit Mont-Tremblant.

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