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SENTRA CUP

MAGAZINE



Event 1

Canadian Tire Motorsport Park, ON
May 20 - 21 - 22, 2022



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Summary



Alexandre Fortin and Simon Charbonneau are the first 2022 winners

*Very competitive races mark this inaugural event of 2022
despite the extreme weather conditions*



The Nissan Sentra Cup kicked off its second season of racing at Canadian Tire Motorsport Park in Ontario this past weekend. Two races were held and saw Alexandre Fortin and Simon Charbonneau each take a victory.

No less than seven new drivers entered the Cup this year and, among them, young Justin Arseneau who competed in the US-based Formula 4 open-wheel series last year. Aboard his ICAR Nissan Sentra, Arseneau made an impressive debut in the Cup, claiming pole position in the first qualifying session on Saturday. The intensity of the battle at the front of the field with these near-series Nissan Sentras was demonstrated by the fact that the seven fastest cars were separated by just one second.

The first race started as a severe thunderstorm was brewing in the region. Justin Arseneau, Alexandre Fortin and Simon Charbonneau fought hard for the lead, but after just three laps of racing a violent storm and extreme winds stuck hard. A widespread power outage in the region and a tornado threat brought the race to a premature end. Alexandre Fortin was declared the winner in front of Arseneau, Normand Boyer, Valérie Limoges, Daniel Fortin, Sylvain Ouellet, Frédéric Chaput, Jean Audet, Nicolas Miron and André Lapointe. François-Angers Routhier captured victory in the Micra class.

Rain welcomed the competitors on Sunday for Race 2. Simon Charbonneau started the 40-minute race in third place and powered into the lead in Corner 1 ahead of Arseneau and Fortin. Fighting to find some grip on the very slippery tarmac, the Nissan Sentra Cup drivers put on a terrific show for the fans.



Arseneau managed to slip into first place shortly after the halfway point mark, but he made a minor excursion in the grass that allowed Charbonneau to move into first place. From then, Charbonneau was en route to a brilliant maiden victory in the series. Arseneau, Alexandre Fortin, Limoges, Miron, Ouellet, Daniel Fortin, Nicolas Barrette, François Angers-Routhier (Micra class winner) and Raphaël St-Pierre completed the top 10.



The event also featured track parades on Saturday and Sunday of Canadian Nissan Sentra owners, including members of the Ontario Z Club. These parades, led by the brand-new Nissan Z, offered spectators the opportunity to admire vintage 240s, 240SXs, 280s or even 510s alongside more modern models such as the 300, 350 and 370.

The two races held this weekend, as well as the Nissan parades, can be viewed in their entirety on the Nissan Sentra Cup YouTube and Facebook pages.





POSTCARD OF THE Canadian Tire Motorsport Park

This season, the all-new 2023 Nissan Z is used by the series as the official Safety-Car. This seventh generation of the Nissan Z is simply the most powerful Z model ever offered. With its twin-turbo V6 engine producing 400 horsepower and its neat and elegant exterior design, it's leading the pack of Nissan Sentra Cup competitors during the formation lap of each race.



Throughout the 2022 season, Nissan Canada is meeting fans in the paddocks, under the canopy of the series show truck, for a unique opportunity to drive the new Nissan Z. How? By setting up an exclusive simulator, created by the three-time champion of the series, (Micra) and professional driver, Olivier Bédard. Thanks to the GranTurismo 7 platform, you can experience the sensations of driving the new Nissan Z on different tracks.

At only 16 years old, Justin Arseneau is competing this season in the Nissan Sentra Cup with a new team created by the ICAR Complex, which his father owns. After a season in Open wheel racing, in the highly contested U.S. Formula 4 Championship, Justin was quick to demonstrate his talent at the CTMP: two pole positions, two race fastest lap records and two second places finish. The first victory is not far away as Justin Arseneau occupies the first place of the championship after two races!



At the Canadian Tire Motorsport Park, Nissan Sentra owners and Ontario Z Club members were invited for the first time to participate in an exclusive parade behind the wheel of their own Sentra or with their Nissan Z model during lunch breaks. An unforgettable experience! For Sentra owners, these parades will also take place at the Circuit Mont-Tremblant and at the next event at CTMP in September. Please visit sentracup.com and go to the events section to register!

Simon Charbonneau had a rather complicated rookie season last year. In the first race of 2022, a missed overtaking attempt forced him to retire. Deliverance came on Sunday, with a first-ever victory in the series acquired in a very spectacular way. "I will feel less pressure," says Simon, who adds: "It's a good start to the season. It was slippery a lot on Sunday, as the track was wet and tricky. Despite everything, I stayed the course. I wasn't looking back, but I knew very well that my rivals were there. It's so competitive in the Nissan Sentra Cup! But at the restart, I managed to distance myself from the group. I'm so happy with this first victory, which comes just before the Canadian Grand Prix in a month's time. It sets the table for the rest of the season as I'm aiming for the title."





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INTERVIEW

Alexandre Fortin

Rookie class runner-up last year, Alexandre Fortin started 2022 with a victory. The driver of the Ste-Foy / Beauport Nissan team looks back on this feat that already positions him as one of the favourites for the title.



Alexandre, what are your goals for this season?

After winning two races last year when I was a rookie in motorsport, I'm aiming for the title this season, that's clearly my goal. That said, with my father now as my teammate, I want to maximize the fun of competing in the Nissan Sentra Cup events. At the CTMP, during testing on Friday, we followed each other for a long time, I showed him the right apex in the corners, etc. It has been 30 years since he had driven on this track! So I would say that my two goals for the 2022 season are the title and to experience fun on track with my father.

Let's talk about this third father-son duo in the series (with the Barrettes and the Chaputs), is this situation special for you?

It's very special, because he has always been there since I started racing at the age of 6. He has done a bit of motorsport himself but we have never driven against each other in the same category. The Nissan Sentra Cup has made that possible this season! We had always teased each other by saying "I'll end up in front of you one day" but here, it's concrete. I let him get into the rhythm for the first event and after that, he's going to be good! Without laughing, it was beautiful for me to ride with him. We stayed in communication the whole time during testing. We come in the series as a family, my grandfather is part of the team, he also drove in the past.



What is the involvement of Ste-Foy and Beauport Nissan dealers in your program?

It is thanks to them that we are on track and that we are able to enter two cars this year. I don't think we could have considered being on track without their help. When we have small problems during the week they are always there to help us. We are always in communication with them, even during the race weekend when we have to change parts on the car.

How do you see the upcoming events?

My victory on Saturday took a while because I didn't have a good start and then I "played a little hard" with Charbonneau for a few corners. It was fun anyway. On the last lap, when I had regained the lead, Justin Arseneau passed me on the grass. He was of course penalized for that but it was really a fun race. I think this spectacular battle we've had at the front bodes well for the rest of the season.



RESULTS AND STANDINGS

Canadian Tire Motorsport Park - Event 1

QUALIFICATION RACE 1

1) Justin Arseneau	#36
2) Alexandre Fortin	#32
3) Simon Charbonneau	#88
4) Simon Dion-Viens	#8
5) Valérie Limoges	#220
6) Éric Chaput	#116
7) Sylvain Ouellet	#99
8) Daniel Fortin	#95
9) André Lapointe	#12
10) Normand Boyer	#11
11) Frédérick Chaput	#63
12) Jean Audet	#22
13) Nicolas Miron	#191
14) Nicolas Barrette	#427
15) François-Angers Routhier	#90
16) Raphaël St-Pierre	#419
17) Marie-Soleil Labelle	#27
18) Max Poirier	#425

RESULTS RACE 1

1) Alexandre Fortin	6 laps
2) Justin Arseneau	Penalty
3) Normand Boyer	-3.576
4) Valérie Limoges	-3.952
5) Daniel Fortin	-4.294
6) Sylvain Ouellet	-5-385
7) Frédéric Chaput	-5.620
8) Jean Audet	-5.994
9) Nicolas Miron	-6.265
10) André Lapointe	-6.501
11) Nicolas Barrette	-7.268
12) François-Angers Routhier	-19.293
13) Raphaël St-Pierre	-19.973
14) Marie-Soleil Labelle	-38.045
15) Max Poirier	-41.733
16) Simon Charbonneau	-1 lap
17) Simon Dion-Viens	-1 lap
18) Éric Chaput	-6 laps

QUALIFICATION RACE 2

1) Justin Arseneau
2) Alexandre Fortin
3) Simon Charbonneau
4) Simon Dion-Viens
5) Éric Chaput
6) Valérie Limoges
7) Sylvain Ouellet
8) André Lapointe
9) Jean Audet
10) Normand Boyer
11) Daniel Fortin
12) Frédéric Chaput
13) Mathieu Miron
14) Nicolas Barrette
15) François-Angers Routhier
16) Raphaël St-Pierre
17) Marie-Soleil Labelle
18) Max Poirier

Bravo ICAR
Ste-Foy Nissan / Fix Auto
Complexe Autoplus
Véloce / Cliccredit.ca
Groupe Gabriel / Mallette
Groupe Gabriel / Total Quartz
Automobiles Sylvain Ouellet
Canadian Tire
Grand Times Hôtel / Posimage
Blocs Normand
Ste-Foy Nissan / Fix Auto
Groupe Gabriel / Mallette
191 Motorsport
Boutiques Tite Frette
Bravo ICAR
Sensei Groupe-Conseil
Musée Gilles-Villeneuve
Unicorn Motorsport

RESULTS RACE 2

1) Simon Charbonneau	17 laps
2) Justin Arseneau	-1.274
3) Alexandre Fortin	-5.111
4) Valérie Limoges	-12.385
5) Mathieu Miron	-23.683
6) Sylvain Ouellet	-33.062
7) Daniel Fortin	-40.218
8) Nicolas Barrette	-49.222
9) François-Angers Routhier	-55.646
10) Raphaël St-Pierre	-1:01.047
11) Marie-Soleil Labelle	-1:47.588
12) Max Poirier	-2:00.430
13) Normand Boyer	-1 lap
14) Éric Chaput	-2 laps
15) Frédéric Chaput	-6 laps
16) André Lapointe	-10 laps
17) Jean Audet	-10 laps
18) Simon Dion-Viens	-16 laps



OVERALL STANDINGS

Position	#	Driver	Class	Races	Points
1.	36	Justin Arseneau		2	98
2.	32	Alexandre Fortin		2	92
3.	220	Valérie Limoges		2	76
4.	88	Simon Charbonneau		2	67
5.	11	Normand Boyer	S	2	60
5.	99	Sylvain Ouellet	S	2	60
7.	95	Daniel Fortin	S	2	59
8.	90	François Angers-Routhier	M	2	51
9.	427	Nicolas Barrette		2	46
10.	63	Frédéric Chaput		2	44
11.	22	Jean Audet	S	2	40
11.	419	Raphaël St-Pierre	M	2	40
13.	12	André Lapointe	S	2	37
13.	27	Marie-Soleil Labelle	M	2	37
15.	425	Max Poirier	M+R	2	35
16.	191	Mathieu Miron		1	34
17.	116	Éric Chaput	S	2	30
18.	8	Simon Dion-Viens		2	27
19.	191	Nicolas Miron		1	24

R = rookie driver; S = Senior class; M = Micra class - poleposition.ca Trophy.



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NEXT EVENT

The next event will take place June 17-18-19 at circuit Gilles-Villeneuve in Montreal, as part of the Formula 1 Grand Prix du Canada. This will be the Nissan Sentra Cup's first-ever participation in the sports' biggest event in Canada. More than 350,000 spectators are expected at this 2022 edition which will see the Nissan Sentra Cup drivers compete in one race on Saturday and the other on Sunday.

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