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# SENTRA CUP

## MAGAZINE

**Event 1**

Circuit Mont-Tremblant, QC  
May 26, 27, 28, 2023



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## Summary



## Alexandre Fortin and Simon Charbonneau first 2023 winners of the Nissan Sentra Cup

*Two highly contested races at Circuit Mont-Tremblant that promise an exciting new season for the Canadian motorsport series*

It was this weekend, under the sun and in summer temperatures, that the first event of the 2023 Nissan Sentra Cup season took place. Two races presented on the famous Circuit Mont-Tremblant, in the heart of the Laurentian mountains, in Quebec, won by Alexandre Fortin and Simon Charbonneau.

For the first time since the early Sentra years (2021), the series featured both races on the same day, with the schedule revised by Series' officials after the Saturday morning qualifying session was stopped following the crash of Sean Scully (Micra class). Qualifying, presented on Saturday afternoon, saw Alexandre Fortin take both pole positions, ahead of Nicolas Barrette for race 1 and Simon Charbonneau for race 2.



Sunday morning, the first half of the race 1 was marked by the spectacular battle at the front between three drivers: Fortin, Charbonneau and Barrette. A restart just 5 minutes from the end saw Samuel Rowe, a series regular but starting this season in a Sentra, join the group of contenders for victory. Charbonneau then managed to climb into the lead, passed Fortin who had led until then, but the driver from Quebec regained the first place on the next lap. Alexandre Fortin finally won this first race of the season, ahead of Rowe, Charbonneau, Barrette.

Nicolas Barrette then recovered third place following a one-position penalty imposed on Simon Charbonneau.

For fifth place, Daniel Fortin, Alexandre's father and his teammate with the Ste-Foy Nissan team, resisted pressure from Nicolas Miron and Sylvain Ouellet until the end. Quebec TV and radio host Benoît Gagnon took eighth place for his very first race at the wheel of a Sentra, ahead of 2022 champion Valérie Limoges, and Jean Audet.

In the Micra class, Simon Vincent returned to victory, dominating the entire race. Nicolas Lévesque and the defending champion of this category, Raphaël St-Pierre, completed the Top 3.

As the temperature exceeded 30 degrees Celsius, the second race started like the first, with Fortin, Charbonneau and Barrette in the first three places. But Alexandre Fortin was forced to retire halfway through the race, his muffler having come off, which made him exceed the noise limits authorized at Circuit Mont-Tremblant.

That paved the way for Charbonneau to victory, with Barrette behind and Rowe completing the podium. Daniel Fortin and Vincent Lalande followed. At just 15 years old, Lalande was making his debut in the series and he was impressive throughout the weekend. Nicolas Miron, Christian Thibault (also a rookie this season in the Nissan Sentra Cup), Sylvain Ouellet, Benoît Gagnon and Valérie Limoges completed the Top 10.

For her first event at the wheel of a Sentra, Marie-Soleil Labelle finished eleventh (thirteenth in the first race) while in the Micra class, it's another perfect race for Simon Vincent, who finished ahead of Nicolas Lévesque and Charles- Etienne Boucher.





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## POSTCARD FROM **Circuit Mont-Tremblant**

### **Sentra debut and TV documentary for Benoît Gagnon**

Popular Quebec radio and TV host, Benoît Gagnon made his Sentra debut at Circuit Mont-Tremblant, after taking part in several races in the past in the Micra class. At the wheel of the Nissan Sentra #20, a car from veteran Sylvain Ouellet's team, Gagnon was also the subject of filming for a documentary that will be broadcast on the Z Télé network on August 21. Benoît will be back in the series for two other events this season, including the Grand Prix de Trois-Rivières.



### **A F2000 champion to drive the official Sentra**

2022 Champion of the American Formula 2000 open wheel series, the young Quebec driver Jean-Christophe Trahan was chosen this season to drive the Series' Safety-Car. At the wheel of this official Nissan Sentra, he leads the field for the formation lap at the start of each race.

## Return of the traditional parades

This season, the Nissan Sentra Cup continues the tradition reserved for Canadian owners of various Nissan models of a parade on the circuit, both days at noon. Rogue, Pathfinder, Micra, Sentra and other models were on the track, for a ride always appreciated by their owners. In the paddocks, they also had the opportunity to practice their virtual driving capabilities in the Nissan Z on the Nissan Canada simulator.



## Simon Vincent dominates the Micra class

Winner of the last races of the 2022 season in the Micra class, Simon Vincent is back this season in the series. At Mont-Tremblant, he again achieved a perfect score in class: pole positions, victories and fastest lap in the race. This performance reinforces the rumor that the young Quebec driver, who likes to split his motorsport season between the Nissan Sentra Cup and the Canadian Rally Championship, is more than ever interested in graduating at the wheel of a racing Sentra before the end of the season!





## Vincent Lalande: THE YOUNGEST DRIVER IN SENTRA!

The Nissan Sentra Cup sees the venue of several new drivers this season. Among them, a young rookie in road racing, Vincent Lalande. Aged 15 and already a triple champion in motorcycle competitions (Mini Superbike), Lalande has achieved a very promising first event. He will compete throughout the season at the wheel of the #13 Nissan Sentra. He tells us about it...

### **Vincent, what is your background in auto racing?**

I started driving cars when I was 13. My best friend Jayden Martorana who competes in Formula Drift convinced my father so that I discovered this series. I then learned to drive with a manual gearbox and did Time Attack at the Complexe ICAR, on the ice. I have never competed in karting. I then chose to get into the Nissan Sentra Cup.

### **Why did you choose the Nissan Sentra Cup?**

Firstly, because the series is very well publicized and is televised. I am convinced that this can open doors for all drivers. Then there's a lot of competition, I can learn from drivers who are better, more experienced than me. It is extremely interesting because you learn more quickly this way. I would say that the Nissan Sentra Cup represents the best series to start, it is very well organized. Finally, the third argument is financial: the budget is very reasonable, that suited me.



### **What do you like about driving the Sentra?**

To ride on slick tires! I had never tried this before. With the Sentra, there is not a lot of power but a lot of grip, the cars are agile and that's what I like. A one-make series allows everyone to set off on equal terms and stand out through driving. As a driver, you improve more with this type of series, the learning curve is faster.

### **Over the whole season, what is your goal?**

I don't have a particular goal but of course a Top 3 or even a victory would be great. I believe that a track like ICAR will give me more advantages because I know it very well. I still need track time with the Sentra to improve, although I'm happy with my lap times for this first weekend. I also know the CTMP well on which I rode my motorcycle. I still have to discover Trois-Rivières, which I did a lot on a simulator. I can't wait to see how it will turn out.

### **For the future, what are the ambitions in motorsport?**

Like many drivers, I would love to become a professional driver, have a wheel and be paid to race. The rally attracts me a lot but my age currently prevents me from doing it for the moment because I have to start by obtaining my driving license. This season, the main goal is to make good progress in the Nissan Sentra Cup.



# RESULTS AND STANDINGS

Circuit Mont-Tremblant - Event 1

## QUALIFICATION RACE 1

1) Alexandre Fortin	#32
2) Nicolas Barrette	#427
3) Simon Charbonneau	#88
4) Daniel Fortin	#95
5) Samuel Rowe	#23
6) Nicolas Miron	#192
7) Mathieu Miron	#191
8) Vincent Lalande	#13
9) Sylvain Ouellet	#99
10) Jean Audet	#22
11) Christian Thibault	#46
12) Valérie Limoges	#1
13) Benoît Gagnon	#20
14) Marie-Soleil Labelle	#27
15) Simon Vincent	#91
16) Charles-Étienne Boucher	#89
17) Nicolas Lévesque	#50
18) Raphaël St-Pierre	#419
19) Jean-François Couture	#7
20) Luc Richard	#26
21) Max Poirier	#425
Did not start) Sean Scully	#428

## RESULTS RACE 1

1) Alexandre Fortin	14 laps
2) Samuel Rowe	-0.517
3) Nicolas Barrette	-2.283
4) Simon Charbonneau	Penalty
5) Daniel Fortin	-2.714
6) Nicolas Miron	-3.037
7) Sylvain Ouellet	-3.620
8) Benoît Gagnon	-7.167
9) Valérie Limoges	-7.687
10) Jean Audet	-8.485
11) Christian Thibault	Penalty
12) Vincent Lalande	-8.868
13) Marie-Soleil Labelle	-9.939
14) Simon Vincent	-18.351
15) Nicolas Lévesque	-20.126
16) Raphaël St-Pierre	-25.142
17) Charles-Étienne Boucher	-25.623
18) Sean Scully	-2 laps
19) Jean-François Couture	-2 laps
20) Mathieu Miron	-3 laps
21) Max Poirier	-6 laps
22) Luc Richard	Did not start

## QUALIFICATION RACE 2

1) Alexandre Fortin	Ste-Foy Nissan / Fix Auto
2) Simon Charbonneau	Complexe Autoplus
3) Nicolas Barrette	Groupe RM
4) Daniel Fortin	Ste-Foy Nissan / Fix Auto
5) Samuel Rowe	ICAR Racing Team
6) Nicolas Miron	191 Motorsport
7) Mathieu Miron	191 Motorsport
8) Vincent Lalande	Équipe Vincent Lalande
9) Sylvain Ouellet	Ouellet Motorsport
10) Jean Audet	Grand Times Hôtel
11) Christian Thibault	Équipe Christian Thibault
12) Benoît Gagnon	Ouellet Motorsport
13) Valérie Limoges	Groupe Gabriel / Total Quartz
14) Marie-Soleil Labelle	Musée Gilles-Villeneuve
15) Simon Vincent	Vincent2 racing team
16) Charles-Étienne Boucher	Charlo Motorsport / PB Soft
17) Nicolas Lévesque	Lévesque Racing
18) Raphaël St-Pierre	Sensei Groupe-Conseil
19) Luc Richard	Richard Motorsport
20) Jean-François Couture	Céramique O-Nivo
21) Max Poirier	Unicorn Motorsport
Did not start) Sean Scully	Dragonn Racing Team

## RESULTS RACE 2

1) Simon Charbonneau	20 laps
2) Nicolas Barrette	-7.249
3) Samuel Rowe	-13.347
4) Daniel Fortin	-19.363
5) Vincent Lalande	-25.451
6) Nicolas Miron	-32.853
7) Christian Thibault	-41.778
8) Sylvain Ouellet	-42.386
9) Benoît Gagnon	-53.560
10) Valérie Limoges	-1:20.955
11) Marie-Soleil Labelle	-1:37.007
12) Simon Vincent	-2:03.012
13) Nicolas Lévesque	-1 lap
14) Charles-Étienne Boucher	-1 lap
15) Raphaël St-Pierre	-1 lap
16) Jean-François Couture	-2 laps
17) Max Poirier	-2 laps
18) Jean Audet	-2 laps
19) Alexandre Fortin	-11 laps
20) Mathieu Miron	Did not start
21) Sean Scully	Did not start
22) Luc Richard	Did not start



## OVERALL STANDINGS

Position	#	Driver	Class	Races	Points
1.	427	Nicolas Barrette		2	92
2.	23	Samuel Rowe		2	88
3.	88	Simon Charbonneau		2	87
4.	95	Daniel Fortin		2	72
5.	32	Alexandre Fortin		2	66
6.	192	Nicolas Miron		2	60
7.	99	Sylvain Ouellet		2	54
8.	13	Vincent Lalande		2	53
9.	20	Benoît Gagnon		2	50
10.	1	Valérie Limoges		2	46
11.	46	Christian Thibault		2	45
12.	91	Simon Vincent	M	2	44
13.	27	Marie-Soleil Labelle		2	38
14.	22	Jean Audet		2	35
15.	50	Nicolas Lévesque	M	2	34
16.	419	Raphaël St-Pierre	M	2	31
16.	89	Charles-Étienne Boucher	M	2	31
18.	7	Jean-François Couture	M	2	27
19.	425	Max Poirier	M	2	24
20.	428	Sean Scully	M	1	13
21.	191	Mathieu Miron		1	11
22.	26	Luc Richard	M	0	0

M = Micra class - poleposition.ca Trophy.



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## NEXT EVENT

The second event of the season will take place on July 9 at the Complexe ICAR in Mirabel, as part of the Nissan Grand Prix. An event exclusively dedicated to the Nissan brand, to fans of the brand and the Nissan Sentra Cup. In addition to the two races, the spectators will be able to try out vehicles from the Nissan range, including the all-new 100% electric ARIYA. Actress and Nissan spokesperson for Quebec Karine Vanasse will also be present and the fans will be able to see the LEAF Nismo RC, Nissan's 100% electric prototype. Finally, track hot laps in Nissan Z and LEAF Nismo RC will be organized for the fans on site.

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