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SENTRA CUP

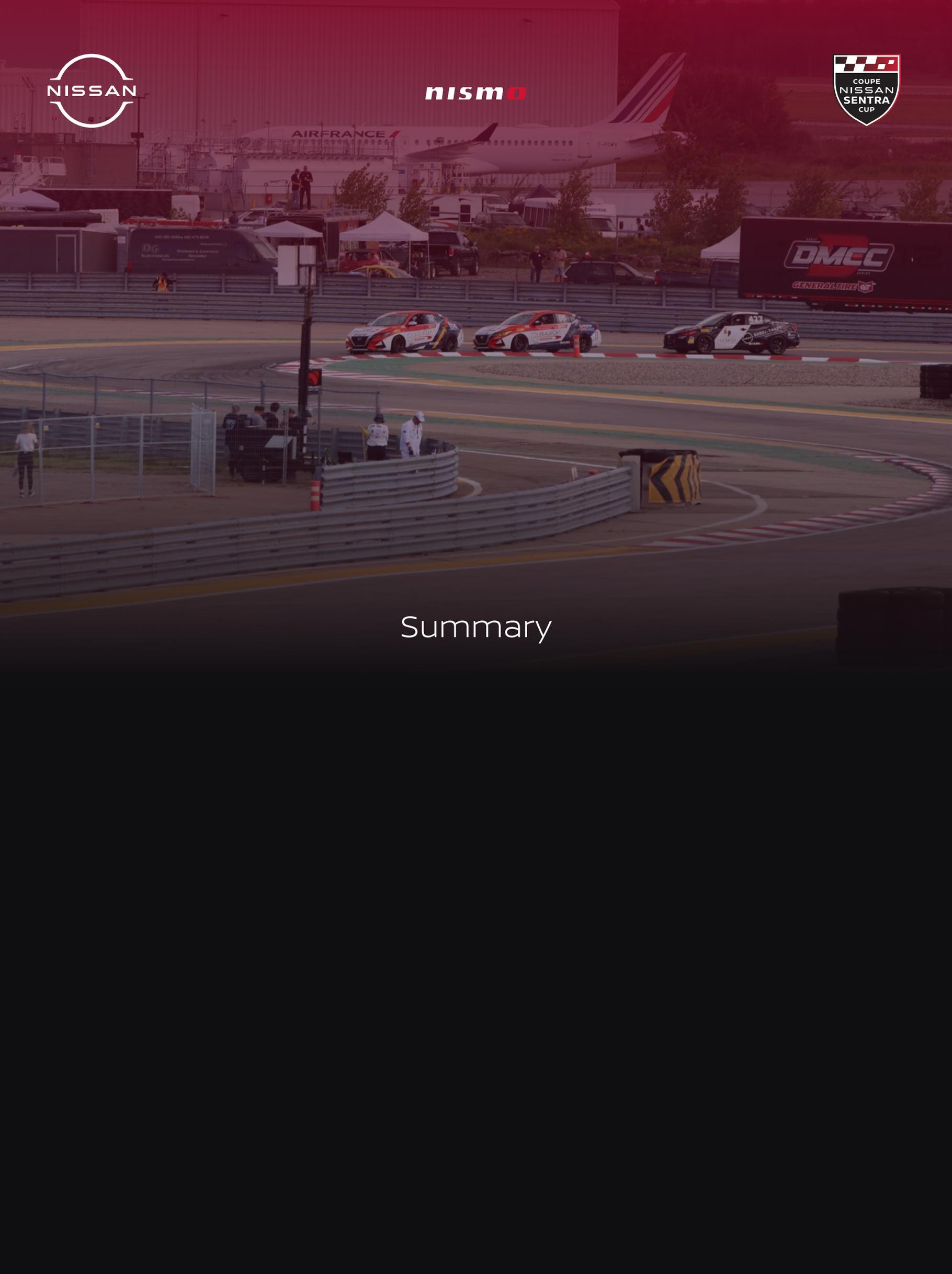
MAGAZINE

Event 4

Complexe ICAR
August 25-26, 2023



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Summary



Valérie Limoges and Alexandre Fortin winners of the Nissan Sentra Cup races at Complexe ICAR

Two new races were presented this weekend leading up to the only event of the season in Ontario

The Nissan Sentra Cup was in action this weekend at the Complexe ICAR in Mirabel, for races 7 and 8 of the 2023 season. Six weeks after hosting the Nissan Grand Prix on the same track, which is situated on the concrete surface of a section of the Montreal-Mirabel international airport, the drivers had two races scheduled. Both races took place on Saturday and were won by the 2022 Series champion Valérie Limoges, followed by Alexandre Fortin.

Qualified in the pole position on Friday, Simon Charbonneau seemed poised to replicate last July's performance, when he won both races of the Nissan Grand Prix. As the first race commenced, Charbonneau surged into the lead but his progress was halted by a full course yellow after the midway point of the race.

Shortly after the restart, Valérie Limoges took advantage of Charbonneau's off-course excursion at the first corner to claim the lead. However, the two drivers made contact two corners later, with Charbonneau colliding heavily with her car. The race was then stopped and did not resume, resulting in Valérie Limoges securing her first victory in the series since 2021.



For second place, Alexandre Fortin managed to outpace his father Daniel by a few tenths of a second. Following closely behind were Nicolas Barrette, Mathieu Miron, Nicolas Miron, Sylvain Ouellet, Simon Vincent, André Lapointe and Jean Audet rounding out the Top 10. Meanwhile, in the Micra class, Nicolas Lévesque secured first place from Charles-Étienne Boucher in the closing laps.

Presented a few hours later, the second race unfolded without Simon Charbonneau, who had been excluded by the officials due to the incident in the first race. The race began with a historic moment for the Series: a family securing the first row. Alexandre Fortin starting from pole position alongside his father Daniel in a 100% Ste-Foy Beauport Nissan team duo.

Proceeding without any incidents, this second race witnessed the Fortins lead from start to finish. They faced pressure from Nicolas Barrette and Simon Vincent during the first laps. On the penultimate lap, Daniel Fortin managed to overtake his son but, showcasing the camaraderie and familial spirit of the series, the two drivers crossed the last lap side by side. Ultimately, Alexandre Fortin secured the victory, edging out his father by a mere 207 thousandths of a second.

Nicolas Barrette secured a spot on the podium, preserving his title hopes. Placing fourth, Valérie Limoges took the wheel of André Lapointe's car after her Sentra was damaged in the first race's incident. In a display of remarkable sportsmanship, Lapointe lent his car to the 2022 champion for this race.

Following were Éric Chaput, Nicolas Miron, Benoît Gagnon and Marie-Soleil Labelle. For Marie-Soleil, this was her best career result in the series and her second Top 10 in 4 races. Simon Vincent and Christian Thibault rounded out the top 10. In the Micra class, Nicolas Lévesque secured another victory surpassing Charles-Étienne Boucher.





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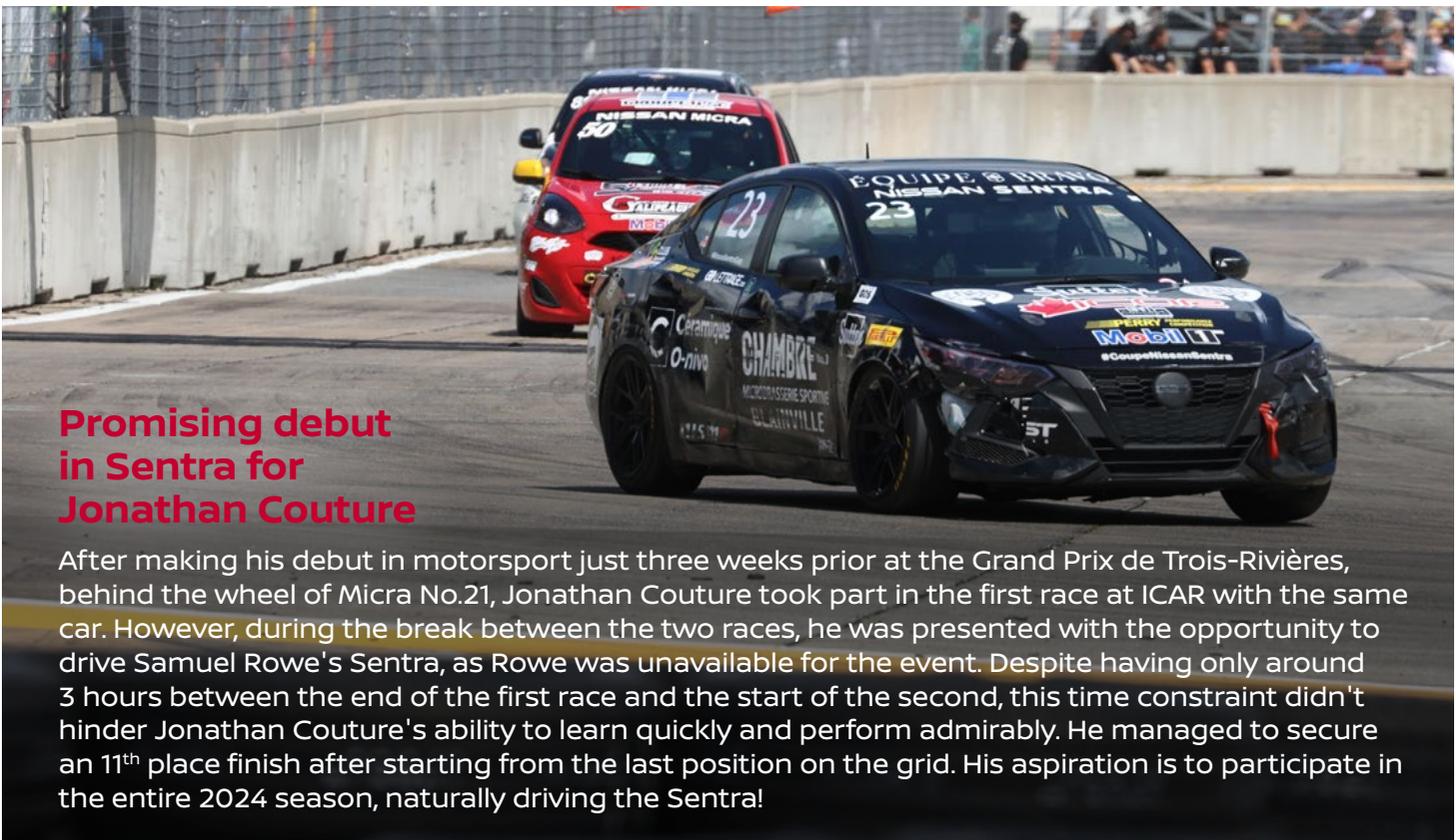
Postcard

FROM COMPLEXE ICAR



A remarkable display of sportsmanship

We often discuss on-track rivalries in the world of motorsport. At Complexe ICAR, it was particularly important to highlight the admirable sportsmanship of André Lapointe. He spontaneously lent his Sentra to Valérie Limoges, the 2022 defending champion, so she could participate in the second race of the day. Her car had been damaged due to contact caused by Simon Charbonneau in the first race. The time gap between the two races didn't allow the mechanics of Team Limoges to repair the car. The option presented by André Lapointe was warmly welcomed by Valérie, who ultimately finished 4th in the second race.



Promising debut in Sentra for Jonathan Couture

After making his debut in motorsport just three weeks prior at the Grand Prix de Trois-Rivières, behind the wheel of Micra No.21, Jonathan Couture took part in the first race at ICAR with the same car. However, during the break between the two races, he was presented with the opportunity to drive Samuel Rowe's Sentra, as Rowe was unavailable for the event. Despite having only around 3 hours between the end of the first race and the start of the second, this time constraint didn't hinder Jonathan Couture's ability to learn quickly and perform admirably. He managed to secure an 11th place finish after starting from the last position on the grid. His aspiration is to participate in the entire 2024 season, naturally driving the Sentra!

Gran Turismo movie released...

Available in Canadian cinemas since Friday, August 25, the Gran Turismo movie is an adaptation of the video game series by the same name. It narrates the journey of Jann Mardenborough, a young British driver who transitioned from virtual racing to real motorsport tracks thanks to the Nissan GT Academy. We wholeheartedly encourage you to experience this film, directed by Neill Blomkamp and featuring Archie Madekwe. We'd also like to remind you that no fewer than three drivers from the Nissan GT Academy have taken part in the Nissan Micra Cup. These include Thanaroj Tanasitnitikate from Thailand and Abhinay Bikkani from India in 2015, followed by American driver Nicolas Hamman in 2016.



Perfect score for Nicolas Lévesque in Micra class

Securing two pole positions, setting the fastest laps in both races, and clinching two victories, Nicolas Lévesque has achieved a clean sweep in the Micra class at ICAR. Hailing from Trois-Rivières, this young and exceptionally talented driver made his series debut last year during the Circuit Mont-Tremblant Fall Classic. Since then, he has consistently earned podium finishes and claimed wins. It's undeniable that he now stands as the frontrunner for the Micra class championship this season.



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Interview Simon Vincent : FROM RALLYING TO THE NISSAN SENTRA CUP...

Numerous drivers have transitioned to the Nissan Sentra Cup after launching their racing careers in karting. Among them is Simon Vincent, a talented young driver from Quebec, who initially pursued rallying competitions before venturing into the series. A successful dual experience that he tells us about in this interview...

First of all, can you summarize your motorsport's career?

My official journey began at the Rallye de Sanair, an event in the Quebec Performance Rally Championship, in April 2009. I was just 17 years old at the time, and I started as a co-driver for my father. He himself had a remarkable rally career, but before that, he had spent several years competing in road circuit series during the 1980s before eventually transitioning to rally racing. He found that these two disciplines complemented each other well. In my case, I followed a somewhat different path, initially engaging in rally competitions. However, I believe that to truly enhance my skills as a driver, entering the road circuit realm through the Nissan Sentra Cup was undoubtedly the right choice. After acquiring a car for the Micra class and subsequently renting a

Sentra for the two Nissan Grand Prix races in July, both of which were incredibly enjoyable and culminated in two Top 5 finishes, I was convinced to take the leap. This decision led me to purchase a Sentra, marking a significant step in my racing career.

Did these Top 5 finishes at the Nissan Grand Prix in July motivate your decision to purchase a Sentra, or is it the fact that the series continues in 2024 and 2025?

Driving the Sentra on a rental basis for my initial laps convinced me of its delightful driving experience. Subsequently, when the opportunity arose to purchase one, we were firmly inclined to seize it. This progression felt like the natural course of action and being part of our family team brings us immense joy as we derive great enjoyment from participating in this series.



It's worth acknowledging that our desire for a more competitive environment than that offered by the Micra class played a role in our decision. The Sentra field provided exactly what we were seeking, and we've found ourselves immersed in spirited competition. Notably, engaging battles with competitors such as the Miron brothers have proven exhilarating, as they epitomize the respectful rivalry that characterizes this tier of racing.

Did the experience gained in the Nissan Sentra Cup help you in rallying?

Absolutely, and I'd venture to say that was one of the driving factors behind our decision to acquire the Sentra. The high level of competition within this series undoubtedly contributes to my growth as a more well-rounded driver. I had the chance to witness the benefits of participating in both disciplines during the Rallye Perce-Neige, an event in the Canadian Rally Championship, last winter. I noticed a marked improvement in my racing lines—much smoother and refined—and I believe this enhancement can be attributed to my experiences in road racing.

Why did you choose the Nissan Sentra Cup to make your road racing debut?

I believe there's nothing quite like a monotype series to engage in intense on-track battles with fellow drivers and gain valuable insights from our own driving errors. While practicing alone during test days is beneficial, the true essence lies in participating in competitive races within a series where all drivers are on equal footing with identical cars. Tailing another driver closely, mastering the optimal racing lines to enhance speed, and refining our skills all happen best in the context of actual racing scenarios.



RESULTS AND STANDINGS

Complexe ICAR - Event 4

QUALIFICATION RACE 1

1) Simon Charbonneau	#88
2) Daniel Fortin	#95
3) Alexandre Fortin	#32
4) Nicolas Barrette	#427
5) Valérie Limoges	#1
6) Mathieu Miron	#191
7) Simon Vincent	#91
8) Nicolas Miron	#192
9) Christian Thibault	#46
10) Sylvain Ouellet	#99
11) Éric Chaput	#116
12) André Lapointe	#12
13) Marie-Soleil Labelle	#27
14) Nicolas Lévesque	#50
15) Charles-Étienne Boucher	#89
16) Sean Scully	#428
17) Raphaël St-Pierre	#419
18) Jonathan Couture	#21
19) Jean Audet	#22
20) Max Poirier	#425
Did not start) Benoît Gagnon	#20

RESULTS RACE 1

1) Valérie Limoges	15 laps
2) Alexandre Fortin	-0.329
3) Daniel Fortin	-0.714
4) Nicolas Barrette	-1.999
5) Mathieu Miron	-3.914
6) Nicolas Miron	-4.750
7) Sylvain Ouellet	-5.235
8) Simon Vincent	-5,773
9) André Lapointe	-6.268
10) Jean Audet	-8.031
11) Benoît Gagnon	-15.542
12) Nicolas Lévesque	-18.911
13) Charles-Étienne Boucher	-19.197
14) Raphaël St-Pierre	-20.194
15) Sean Scully	-24.022
16) Max Poirier	-24.369
17) Marie-Soleil Labelle	-3 laps
18) Christian Thibault	-8 laps
19) Éric Chaput	-9 laps
20) Jonathan Couture	-15 laps
Excluded) Simon Charbonneau	-----

QUALIFICATION RACE 2

1) Simon Charbonneau
2) Alexandre Fortin
3) Daniel Fortin
4) Nicolas Barrette
5) Valérie Limoges
6) Mathieu Miron
7) Simon Vincent
8) Nicolas Miron
9) Sylvain Ouellet
10) Christian Thibault
11) Éric Chaput
12) André Lapointe
13) Marie-Soleil Labelle
14) Nicolas Lévesque
15) Sean Scully
16) Charles-Étienne Boucher
17) Raphaël St-Pierre
18) Jonathan Couture
Did not start) Jean Audet
Did not start) Benoît Gagnon
Did not start) Max Poirier

Complexe Autoplus
Ste-Foy Nissan / Fix Auto
Ste-Foy Nissan / Fix Auto
Groupe RM
Groupe Gabriel / Total Quartz
191 Motorsport
Vincent2 racing team
191 Motorsport
Ouellet Motorsport
Équipe Christian Thibault
Ouellet Motorsport
Canadian Tire
Musée Gilles-Villeneuve
Lévesque Motorsport
Dragonn Racing Team
Charlo Motorsport / PB Soft
Sensei Groupe-Conseil
Céramique O-Nivo
Grand Times Hôtel
Ouellet Motorsport
Unicorn Motorsport

RESULTS RACE 2

1) Alexandre Fortin	24 laps
2) Daniel Fortin	-0.207
3) Nicolas Barrette	-10.623
4) Valérie Limoges	-19.620
5) Éric Chaput	-20.045
6) Nicolas Miron	-34.194
7) Benoît Gagnon	-37.269
8) Marie-Soleil Labelle	-39.600
9) Simon Vincent	-49.798
10) Christian Thibault	-1:22.399
11) Jonathan Couture	-1 lap
12) Nicolas Lévesque	-1 lap
13) Charles-Étienne Boucher	-1 lap
14) Raphaël St-Pierre	-1 lap
15) Max Poirier	-1 lap
16) Mathieu Miron	-18 laps
17) Sean Scully	-20 laps
18) Jean Audet	-23 laps
19) André Lapointe	Did not start
20) Sylvain Ouellet	Did not start
21) Simon Charbonneau	Did not start



OVERALL STANDINGS

Position	#	Driver	Class	Races	Points
1.	32	Alexandre Fortin		8	354
2.	427	Nicolas Barrette		8	305
3.	1	Valérie Limoges		8	280
4.	88	Simon Charbonneau		7	279
5.	95	Daniel Fortin		7	221
6.	91	Simon Vincent		8 *	198
7.	191	Mathieu Miron		7	178
8.	192	Nicolas Miron		6	174
9.	50	Nicolas Lévesque	M	8	162
10.	23	Samuel Rowe		6	150
11.	99	Sylvain Ouellet		5	148
12.	27	Marie-Soleil Labelle		8	143
13.	46	Christian Thibault		7	140
14.	20	Benoît Gagnon		6	136
15.	89	Charles-Étienne Boucher	M	8	135
16.	22	Jean Audet		8	130
17.	12	André Lapointe		5	122
18.	13	Vincent Lalande		6	120
19.	428	Sean Scully	M	7	106
20.	425	Max Poirier	M	8	105
21.	419	Raphaël St-Pierre	M	6	96
22.	7	Jean-François Couture	M	6	72
23.	96	Stefan Gauthier		2	64
24.	21	Jonathan Couture		4 **	55
25.	116	Éric Chaput		2	46
26.	53	Paul Dargis		2	43
27.	63	Frédéric Chaput		2	28
28.	131	Gilbert Christini	M	2	23
29.	28	Frédéric Bernier	M	2	11
30.	26	Luc Richard		1	5

M = Micra class - poleposition.ca Trophy.

* Simon Vincent competed in races 1, 2, 5 and 6 in the Micra class (80 points scored).

** Jonathan Couture competed in races 5, 6 and 7 in the Micra class (35 points scored).



NEXT EVENT

The upcoming event is scheduled for September 1, 2 and 3 at the Canadian Tire Motorsport Park (CTMP) in Ontario. Situated northeast of Toronto, the track, previously referred to as Mosport, boasts a storied legacy, having hosted eight editions of the Formula 1 Grand Prix du Canada. For the 2023 season, it will host the Nissan Sentra Cup for a single occasion. With its high-speed corners, the CTMP always offers plenty of action for fans but also for competitors leaving no room for even the slightest error if victory is to be achieved. The event named, the Labor Day Weekend Sprints, will feature two 40-minute races. Set to coincide with the Labor Day weekend in Canada, this event promises excitement.

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