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# SENTRA CUP

## MAGAZINE

Event 5

Canadian Tire Motorsport Park, ON  
September 1 - 2 - 3, 2023



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Summary



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## Valérie Limoges and Alexandre Fortin win at the Canadian Tire Motorsport Park

*Two action-packed races and three drivers still in contention for the 2023 championship title*

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The Nissan Sentra Cup presented this past weekend at Canadian Tire Motorsport Park, located northeast of Toronto, races 9 and 10 of its 2023 season, as part of an event that saw Valérie Limoges triumph on Saturday and Alexandre Fortin on Sunday.

Qualified in pole position for both races, 2022 champion Valérie Limoges led the first lap in Saturday's race, under pressure from Alexandre Fortin. Slightly off-track at the end of the first lap, Fortin conceded 4 places and Nicolas Barrette became Limoges' most serious rival for the

lead. Halfway through the race, Alexandre Fortin had managed to get back behind Nicolas Barrette and a spectacular battle between 3 drivers began for the victory.

On the 12<sup>th</sup> of the 22 laps, Fortin regained 2<sup>nd</sup> position after having overtaken Barrette, while Valérie Limoges stayed in the lead of this exciting race. However, a full course yellow after Nicolas Miron went off track provided a restart with only 4 minutes to go. Valérie Limoges made all her experience speak by immediately managing to distance her rivals, en-route to victory, her second this season. Nicolas Barrette finished second, only 996 thousandths of a second behind.



The fight for third place was also spectacular, with Mathieu Miron, Daniel Fortin and Simon Vincent contesting this last podium place from Alexandre Fortin, who slowed down at the end of the race. Mathieu Miron finally clinched his first Top 3 in the series, ahead of Daniel Fortin, Simon Vincent and Alexandre Fortin.

In the Micra class, it was also a very spectacular race. Qualified in pole position, Charles-Étienne Boucher dropped two places at the start of the race, Nicolas Lévesque and defending champion Raphaël St-Pierre swapping first place during the first half of the race. Boucher however returned to the lead 5 minutes from the end, but the positions were not fixed.

Lévesque finally wins ahead of St-Pierre and Boucher. The first three crossed the finish line in less than a second.

Presented on Sunday, still under the sun, the second race saw Alexandre Fortin take the lead from the 1<sup>st</sup> corner. A mechanical problem for Nicolas Barrette then a loss of control for Daniel Fortin who hit Valérie Limoges' car caused full course yellow periods and changed the hierarchy at the end of the race. At the finish line, it was Alexandre Fortin who won ahead of Simon Vincent, for whom it was the first Sentra podium. For 3<sup>rd</sup> place, Nicolas Miron beat his brother Mathieu by 109 thousandths of a second. Christian Thibault completed the Top 5.

In the Micra class, this second race was a repeat of the first one, with Nicolas Lévesque, Raphaël St-Pierre and Charles-Étienne Boucher finishing in the Top 3.





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# Postcard

## FROM THE CANADIAN TIRE MOTORSPORT PARK

### Three drivers for a title...

After the CTMP races, Alexandre Fortin is the clear favorite for the 2023 Nissan Sentra Cup championship title. At Mont-Tremblant at the end of the month, the driver of the Ste-Foy Nissan team will only need to secure two 10<sup>th</sup> places or a single second position to be crowned champion if Nicolas Barrette wins both races and secures both pole positions and the two fastest laps in the races. Valérie Limoges also remains a contender for the title.

However, in her case, she will have to hope for two poor performances from Fortin and that Barrette does not finish on the podium to have a chance of overtaking them in the final season standings.



### Two spectacular races in the Micra class

The Micra class races at CTMP presented an almost identical scenario and were both highly spectacular. Nicolas Lévesque, Raphaël St-Pierre, and Charles-Étienne Boucher engaged in an intense battle for victory. These three drivers finished both races in the same order, although they did swap positions several times during the races. The title in this category will be decided at the final event, which will take place at Circuit Mont-Tremblant. Lévesque, who has already secured a Sentra for the 2024 season, is the favorite with a 29-point lead over Boucher.



## Very different horizons...

Among the interests offered by the Nissan Sentra Cup, many drivers use the series to enhance their motorsport experience or as a stepping stone to other racing series. At CTMP, alongside other series on the track, Kevin Lacroix emerged as the winner in the popular Canadian NASCAR series. Lacroix had participated in a few races during the inaugural season of the Nissan Micra Cup back in 2015. In the Radical Canada Prototype series, Ontarian Gavin Sanders secured two Top 5 finishes at CTMP and ended the championship in 3<sup>rd</sup> position. Sanders had previously competed in the Nissan Sentra Cup from 2019 to 2021, securing 2 victories.



## First podiums for Simon Vincent and the Miron brothers

It is a rare occurrence for two-thirds of the podium to be renewed in a national motorsport series. However, that's exactly what happened at the end of Sunday's race when Simon Vincent and Nicolas Miron joined the winner, Alexandre Fortin, on the podium. Simon Vincent, accustomed to success in rally competitions and the Micra class, fought for victory until the last corner, while Nicolas Miron managed to secure 3<sup>rd</sup> place, overtaking his brother Mathieu just a few meters from the finish line. Mathieu had savored the joy of podium champagne for the first time in the Nissan Sentra Cup the day before.



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# Interview Victor Mo,

NISSAN Z PRODUCT PLANNER



The Nissan Sentra Cup event presented at Canadian Tire Motorsport Park provided fans and the media with the opportunity to explore the all-new Nissan Z Nismo in the paddocks, which also served as the official series' Safety Car. During this event, Victor Mo, the product planner for the Nissan Z, unveiled the unique features of this exceptional vehicle....

### **What are the main differences between Nissan Z and Nismo Z?**

The Nismo model is truly track and performance oriented. The engineers have dedicated a significant amount of time to enhance the overall ride experience, especially concerning the suspension and chassis, which have been made much more rigid. Naturally, there's a substantial increase in power output, with the Nismo boasting a 420 HP engine compared to the standard Z's 400 HP, and 384 lb-ft of torque, a step up from the regular Z's 350 lb-ft. The difference in driving experience behind the wheel of the Nismo is quite palpable. Additionally, the cooling system has been significantly upgraded, and the tires are wider.

### **What about the interior of the vehicle?**

The Nismo model is also designed with a sport-oriented approach, featuring highly supportive seats and an overall cockpit that exudes a racing feel, complete with Nismo Z trim. It offers a Sport driving mode, a unique feature not available in any other Z variant, along with a 9-speed sport automatic transmission that delivers more aggressive shifting and gear ratios. Every aspect of this car has seen improvements. While both versions share the same components, the distinction between them becomes immediately apparent when you take a seat behind the wheel of the Nismo Z, and, of course, during its driving experience. It embodies the extreme performance that Nismo is renowned for.

### **Can we say that it's a car developed for competition?**

I believe the new Z model has been very well designed to provide the driver with a Grand Touring experience, but with a much more refined edge. The new Nismo Z takes things up a notch and offers an even sportier experience, making it more playful with its 9-speed automatic transmission. It's clearly intended for a track-type environment, and Nissan Z enthusiasts will certainly find it appealing because it maintains its heritage while delivering a more fun version than the regular Z.



### **How many Nismo Zs will be available for the Canadian market?**

There is genuine enthusiasm among the public and Canadian dealerships for the Nissan Z, and, of course, for this Nismo version. As it represents a transition from the 370 Z, it generates anticipation and heightened expectations from brand enthusiasts. However, it's currently difficult to pinpoint a specific figure, as it will depend on the production volume that Nismo can achieve.

### **When will this model be available in Canada?**

It will arrive at our Canadian dealerships this fall. We don't have the price yet, but it will be very competitive compared to similar type of models from other manufacturers.



# RESULTS AND STANDINGS

Canadian Tire Motorsport Park - Event 5

## QUALIFICATION RACE 1

1) Valérie Limoges	#1
2) Alexandre Fortin	#32
3) Mathieu Miron	#191
4) Daniel Fortin	#95
5) Simon Vincent	#91
6) Nicolas Miron	#192
7) Nicolas Barrette	#427
8) Charles-Étienne Boucher	#89
9) Nicolas Lévesque	#50
10) Raphaël St-Pierre	#419
11) Max Poirier	#425
12) Sean Scully	#428
13) Jonathan Couture	#21
14) Christian Thibault	#46

## RESULTS RACE 1

1) Valérie Limoges	22 laps
2) Nicolas Barrette	-0.996
3) Mathieu Miron	-2.390
4) Daniel Fortin	-2.577
5) Simon Vincent	-2.816
6) Alexandre Fortin	-3.727
7) Nicolas Lévesque	-20.44
8) Raphaël St-Pierre	-20.928
9) Charles-Étienne Boucher	-20.985
10) Sean Scully	-2 laps
11) Max Poirier	-2 laps
12) Nicolas Miron	-6 laps
13) Christian Thibault	Did not start
14) Jonathan Couture	Did not start

## QUALIFICATION RACE 2

1) Valérie Limoges	Groupe Gabriel / Total Quartz
2) Alexandre Fortin	Ste-Foy Nissan / Fix Auto
3) Mathieu Miron	191 Motorsport
4) Daniel Fortin	Ste-Foy Nissan / Fix Auto
5) Simon Vincent	Vincent2 racing team
6) Nicolas Miron	191 Motorsport
7) Nicolas Barrette	Groupe RM
8) Charles-Étienne Boucher	Charlo Motorsport / PB Soft
9) Nicolas Lévesque	Lévesque Motorsport
10) Raphaël St-Pierre	Sensei Groupe-Conseil
11) Max Poirier	Unicorn Motorsport
12) Sean Scully	Dragonn Racing Team
13) Jonathan Couture	Céramique O-Nivo
14) Christian Thibault	Équipe Christian Thibault

## RESULTS RACE 2

1) Alexandre Fortin	19 laps
2) Simon Vincent	-0.685
3) Nicolas Miron	-0.899
4) Mathieu Miron	-1.008
5) Christian Thibault	-8.817
6) Nicolas Lévesque	-13.456
7) Raphaël St-Pierre	-13.965
8) Charles-Étienne Boucher	-13.974
9) Sean Scully	-14.459
10) Max Poirier	-1 lap
11) Valérie Limoges	-7 laps
12) Daniel Fortin	-7 laps
13) Nicolas Barrette	-10 laps
14) Jonathan Couture	Did not start



## OVERALL STANDINGS

Position	#	Driver	Class	Races	Points
1.	32	Alexandre Fortin		10	436
2.	427	Nicolas Barrette		10	369
3.	1	Valérie Limoges		10	354
4.	95	Daniel Fortin		9	280
5.	88	Simon Charbonneau		7	279
6.	91	Simon Vincent		10 *	278
7.	191	Mathieu Miron		9	258
8.	192	Nicolas Miron		8	235
9.	50	Nicolas Lévesque	M	10	220
10.	89	Charles-Étienne Boucher	M	10	191
11.	46	Christian Thibault		8	174
12.	428	Sean Scully	M	9	152
13.	419	Raphaël St-Pierre	M	8	152
14.	23	Samuel Rowe		6	150
15.	99	Sylvain Ouellet		5	148
16.	425	Max Poirier	M	10	147
17.	27	Marie-Soleil Labelle		8	143
18.	20	Benoît Gagnon		6	136
19.	22	Jean Audet		8	130
20.	12	André Lapointe		5	122
21.	13	Vincent Lalande		6	120
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).



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## NEXT EVENT

The next event will take place on September 22, 23 and 24 when the series returns to Quebec, on the Circuit Mont-Tremblant. Called the Fall Classic, this event will feature the Nissan Sentra Cup final round of the season. Two races will again be presented, the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of the season, at the end of which the 2023 champions will be crown.

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