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SENTRA CUP

MAGAZINE

Event 2

Grand Prix Nissan
Complexe ICAR, QC
July 9, 2023



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Summary



Simon Charbonneau wins the Nissan Grand Prix!

Double victory for the St-Jérôme's (QC) driver this Sunday in the Nissan Sentra Cup, at the Complexe ICAR in Mirabel

The Nissan Sentra Cup presented the very first Nissan Grand Prix this Sunday at the Complexe ICAR in Mirabel. Thousands of spectators came at the invitation of Nissan Canada and among the many activities offered, the two Nissan Sentra Cup races crowned Simon Charbonneau.

Free practice, qualifying and both races took place on Sunday only. The first qualifying session allowed Simon Charbonneau to take pole position, ahead of the championship leader Nicolas Barrette. The young rookie (15 years old) Vincent Lalande completed the Top 3, ahead of Samuel Rowe and Simon Vincent who, after several consecutive victories in the Micra class, started this Sunday at the wheel of a Sentra racecar.

Presented on perfect summer weather conditions and in front of packed grandstands, the first race offered spectacular battles on this track held on the site of the former Montréal-Mirabel international airport. Simon Charbonneau led from start to finish but a full course yellow after 30 of the 40 minutes of the race changed the situation. On the restart, Charbonneau, Rowe, Alexandre Fortin, defending champion Valérie Limoges and Barrette battled for victory. They finished in that order but Samuel Rowe was later excluded from the results for using unapproved tires.



Sixth on the track, Simon Vincent completes the Top 5 in the official standings, ahead of Mathieu Miron, Christian Thibault, Vincent Lalande, André Lapointe and Nicolas Lévesque, winner of the Micra class after overtaking Charles-Étienne Boucher, leader from the start, on the last lap.

The afternoon started with the qualifying session for the second race. Charbonneau again took pole position, this time ahead of Rowe, Barrette, Alexandre Fortin, Lalande and Limoges.

The second race concluded the activities of a day that gave a great and emotion filled spectacle for the drivers and the spectators. Simon Charbonneau again dominated the 40 minutes, en route to a perfect score this Sunday: two pole positions, two lap records and two victories. After several changes of position in the peloton, Alexandre Fortin finished second, ahead of Nicolas Barrette, Mathieu Miron, Simon Vincent, Christian Thibault, André Lapointe, Jean Audet and Daniel Fortin, who was in battle with his son for second place for a few laps before losing places. In Micra class, it's another success for Nicolas Lévesque, in front of Charles-Étienne Boucher.

For spectators and fans of the brand, this Nissan Grand Prix was also the perfect opportunity to test drive the ARIYA, Armada, Kicks, LEAF, Pathfinder, Qashqai, Rogue and Sentra models. The luckiest people won a lap with one of the series' professional drivers aboard the LEAF NISMO RC, the famous 100% electric prototype, or a Nissan Z. Nissan brand ambassador for Quebec, actress Karine Vanasse was also on site.

"I congratulate all the participants of this first Nissan Grand Prix, which was a great success. The weather obviously helped us but this event was simply magnificent with two very spectacular races, a lot of fans in the grandstands, test drives by the hundreds and lots of interaction with our customers. We have managed to bring the experience of a free motorsport event to our fans and this really connects the brand with the Nissan Sentra Cup but also with our customers and the cars they drive," said Steve Milette, President of Nissan Canada.





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Postcard

FROM THE COMPLEXE ICAR



Thousands of fans on the site!

Doubtless, the first Nissan Grand Prix at the Complexe ICAR in Mirabel was a great success. Fans have arrived on the site by the thousands. The lucky ones won hot laps of the track as passengers of professional drivers in a Nissan Z or in the 100% electric LEAF Nismo RC prototype. Like young Kyla pictured here, everyone loved the experience.

Impressive Simon Vincent on his Sentra debut

After dominating the Micra class at the end of last season and then in the first two races of 2023, Simon Vincent made his Sentra debut at the Nissan Grand Prix. Successful beginnings with two Top 5 and above all great battles with often more experienced competitors. At ICAR, he drove the car used at the start of the season by Benoît Gagnon, which was unavailable for this event. We now hoped that Simon Vincent, who made his mark in the Canadian Rally Championship, will be back with his own Sentra very soon because he certainly has the talent to play with the candidates' drivers for the podium.



Road tests + motorsport = Winning formula!

Being able to make road test of new models on the day of a motorsport event is an innovative concept created by this Nissan Grand Prix. And the success was there: on a track adjacent to the circuit on which the Nissan Sentra Cup drivers were racing, spectators and fans of the brand could try out the ARIYA, Armada, Kicks, LEAF, Pathfinder, Qashqai, Rogue and Sentra all day long.



First for Nicolas Lévesque in Micra class

Simon Vincent having graduated in Sentra, the victory had several pretenders to the Grand Prix Nissan. Starting last after missing qualifying session, Nicolas Lévesque (#50) took advantage of the full course yellow to get back behind leader Charles-Étienne Boucher (#89), then overtake him on the last lap in the first race. The second race was clearer, Lévesque leading from start to finish. The young and promising Quebec driver thus won his first two races in the series.





Steve Milette here pictured with actress Karine Vanasse.

Steve Milette: President of Nissan Canada looks back on the success of this first Nissan Grand Prix

The Nissan Grand Prix has presented together two races of the Nissan Sentra Cup with a multitude of fan interactions with the brand, such as test drives, hot laps in a Nissan Z and in the LEAF Nismo RC, the simulator of the Nissan Z, etc. How did this concept come together?

At Nissan Canada, we have a lot of creative people and they saw an interesting opportunity in creating this Nissan Grand Prix. The Nissan Sentra Cup being the only series on track, this opened the door to a variety of activities to add to both races. This is the direction we wanted to go: how to maximize the potential offered by the event while attracting fans of the brand and the general public with free admission. The Complexe ICAR is perfectly adapted to this type of event, the location is exceptional for this. The invitations issued to our customers attracted more

than 1,400 Nissan owners to the site, and several thousand spectators came, because of the excitement around the Nissan Grand Prix promotion. From what I've seen, it is an extraordinary success with more than 600 road tests carried out during the day.

Does it allow for more interaction with customers?

Absolutely. In such an event, we learn a lot about our customers: the car they drive, the car they want to buy or have on order, the passion they have for our brand, etc. All of this makes us aware of their aspirations. I would add that our brand is still in conquest mode and an event like this has allowed a large number of people to discover that we are a very passionate brand.



Several thousand spectators attended this Nissan Grand Prix.

Can we say that it also brought new fans to the Nissan Sentra Cup?

That's the impression I actually have. Since the debut of the Micra Cup, we are in the 9th season of the series and I believe that this event has brought notoriety, an interest among people who had never go to a Nissan Sentra Cup event before. There are also so many fans of our brand, such as the Nissan Z club, who have been following the series, sometimes since 2015. A few people came to talk to me and tell me how much they appreciated the event, the fact that they were guests with full access to the site, parking, free lunch.

Will the Nissan Grand Prix be back in 2024?

I hope so. There are still things to plan for the future, but this first Nissan Grand Prix has shown us that the formula works very well. We managed to bring the experience of an open motorsport event to our fans. It is a great success and I congratulate all the people who took part in. For us, this event truly connects the brand with the Nissan Sentra Cup but also with our customers and the cars they drive. It's very important.



RESULTS AND STANDINGS

Complexe ICAR - Event 2

QUALIFICATION RACE 1

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

RESULTS RACE 1

1) Simon Charbonneau	29 laps
2) Alexandre Fortin	-3.210
3) Valérie Limoges	-3.634
4) Nicolas Barrette	-3.946
5) Simon Vincent	-6.403
6) Mathieu Miron	-7.096
7) Christian Thibault	-8.699
8) Vincent Lalande	-9.112
9) André Lapointe	-9.453
10) Nicolas Lévesque	-1 lap
11) Charles-Étienne Boucher	-1 lap
12) Max Poirier	-1 lap
13) Jean Audet	-4 laps
14) Sean Scully	-14 laps
15) Sylvain Ouellet	-17 laps
16) Jean-François Couture	-17 laps
17) Marie-Soleil Labelle	-25 laps
18) Daniel Fortin	Did not start
Excluded) Samuel Rowe	-2.751

QUALIFICATION RACE 2

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

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

RESULTS RACE 2

1) Simon Charbonneau	29 laps
2) Alexandre Fortin	-9.522
3) Nicolas Barrette	-13.163
4) Mathieu Miron	-17.066
5) Simon Vincent	-22.235
6) Christian Thibault	-24.513
7) André Lapointe	-25.400
8) Jean Audet	-25.894
9) Daniel Fortin	-27.283
10) Nicolas Lévesque	-54.147
11) Charles-Étienne Boucher	-58.528
12) Marie-Soleil Labelle	-1 lap
13) Sean Scully	-2 laps
14) Max Poirier	-2 laps
15) Valérie Limoges	-17 laps
16) Samuel Rowe	-18 laps
17) Vincent Lalande	-22 laps
18) Jean-François Couture	-29 laps
19) Sylvain Ouellet	Did not start



OVERALL STANDINGS

Position	#	Driver	Class	Races	Points
1.	88	Simon Charbonneau		4	195
2.	427	Nicolas Barrette		4	172
3.	32	Alexandre Fortin		4	158
4.	91	Simon Vincent		4	112
5.	1	Valérie Limoges		4	104
6.	23	Samuel Rowe		4	103
6.	46	Christian Thibault		4	103
8.	95	Daniel Fortin		3	96
9.	13	Vincent Lalande		4	93
10.	50	Nicolas Lévesque	M	4	84
11.	22	Jean Audet		4	79
11.	191	Mathieu Miron		3	79
13.	89	Charles-Étienne Boucher	M	4	73
14.	27	Marie-Soleil Labelle		4	71
15.	99	Sylvain Ouellet		3	70
16.	425	Max Poirier	M	4	60
16.	192	Nicolas Miron		2	60
18.	7	Jean-François Couture	M	4	55
19.	12	André Lapointe		2	52
20.	20	Benoît Gagnon		2	50
21.	428	Sean Scully	M	3	48
22.	419	Raphaël St-Pierre	M	2	31
23.	26	Luc Richard	M	0	0

M = Micra class - poleposition.ca Trophy.



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NEXT EVENT

The next event will take place on August 4, 5 and 6 at the ever-popular Grand Prix de Trois-Rivières. Two new races will be presented, to complete the first half of the 2023 season.

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