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SENTRA CUP MAGAZINE

Victoria Day SpeedFest
Canadian Tire Motorsport Park
MAY 17, 18, 19, 2024



EVENT 1



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Summary



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Alexandre Fortin and Nicolas Barrette are the first 2024 winners!

The first two races of the 2024 season were held at Canadian Tire Motorsport Park and offered fans plenty of on-track action

The 2024 Nissan Sentra Cup season, with six events including one in the United States this summer, kicked off this weekend at Canadian Tire Motorsport Park, the famous motorsports complex located in Bowmanville, east of Toronto. Alexandre Fortin and Nicolas Barrette took advantage of the opportunity to get the first two victories of the season on Saturday and Sunday, respectively.

Present on Canadian tracks thanks to Nissan Canada and JD Promotion since 2015, when the Nissan Micra Cup was created, the series was one of the stars of this 2024 edition of the Victoria Day SpeedFest. Series champion in 2023, St-Foy-Beauport Nissan driver



Alexandre Fortin started this new campaign in the best way possible, taking pole position on Saturday, ahead of Éric Chaput, his father Daniel Fortin and Valérie Limoges, the 2022 champion.

It was a spectacular and uneventful start for the twenty or so Nissan Sentra's that started Race 1 on Saturday afternoon. Alexandre Fortin and Éric Chaput led the first turns side by side, to the delight of the spectators gathered along the Ontario circuit, before Fortin took the lead, ahead of Chaput and Valérie Limoges.

Throughout the forty minutes of the race, the gaps barely changed, the leading group remaining compact without Chaput being able to dislodge Alexandre Fortin from first place, despite a few very good attempts. In the second half of the event, it was Valérie Limoges who was the most incisive against Fortin, collecting the lap record in the process. This duel of champions turned to Fortin's advantage, by only 622 thousandths of a second. Chaput finished third ahead of Daniel Fortin, who was chased by Nicolas Barrette. Sylvain Ouellet, Nicolas Miron, Simon Vincent, Nicolas Lévesque, who was making his



Sentra debut and gained three places, and Raphaël St-Pierre, also making his debut at the wheel of a Nissan Sentra racing car, completed the Top 10.

On Sunday, under the sun, the second race also began with a side-by-side duel between Alexandre Fortin and Éric Chaput, but the two drivers collided at the third turn. Fortin dropped 17 spots and Chaput withdrew. Daniel Fortin took over the reins, followed by Valérie Limoges and Nicolas Barrette.

For a few laps, Daniel Fortin distanced himself, while Limoges and Barrette swapped positions on almost every lap, to the delight of even more fans than the day before on the site. Further back in the field, the Nissan Sentra Cup drivers once again demonstrated all the capabilities and agility of the racing Sentras with spectacular battles for places 4 to 12, with the gaps never exceeding half a second between the fighting drivers.

With 15 minutes to go, the top twelve were riding closely together, with Nicolas Barrette now in the lead.

But no one could predict who would win. This ultra-spectacular race finally saw Nicolas Barrette win his second Nissan Sentra Cup, the second in four races including the final event of the previous season.

Daniel Fortin and Simon Vincent completed the podium, ahead of Mathieu Miron, Nicolas Miron, Nicolas Lévesque, Frédérick Chaput, Sylvain Ouellet, Jean-François Couture and Raphaël St-Pierre. Following contact with Daniel Fortin with ten minutes to go, Valérie Limoges dropped back to fourteenth position.





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CTMP news

NEW HIGH-PERFORMANCE TIRES

The Nissan Sentra Cup features an important change this year: all-new grooved Pirelli tires, suitable for both dry and wet tracks. As a result, there is no longer a need for two types of tires. For the drivers, this greatly reduces the cost and for the fans, the difference is minimal: barely one to two seconds difference per lap between the 2023 and 2024 tires. Everyone was reassured about the showmanship of the series with these new tires after the incredible action that took place at the CTMP.



MISLEADING FIGURES...

Statistics can sometimes be misleading: last year, Nicolas Barrette completed the first event of the season leading the championship with 92 points. But, without a victory to his name. He had to wait until the eleventh race to secure his first win in the series. This year, he left CTMP with 8 points less than in 2023 but this time, with a historic and intense victory on Sunday. The common point with last season is that the likeable and talented driver is certainly one of the candidates for the title (he finished third behind Alexandre Fortin and Valérie Limoges).

AN ALTIMA FOR THE F1600

Nissan Sentra Cup promoter Jacques Deshaies has also agreed to take charge of the F1600 Canada series, beginning this year. This single-seater car championship, which has once seen champions such as Gilles and Jacques Villeneuve, Greg Moore and Patrick Carpentier, offers 4 events this year and now has a Nissan Altima as its official car. A vehicle that has attracted a lot of attention in the paddocks at CTMP. The Grand Prix de Trois-Rivières next August will be the second event this year where both the Nissan Sentra Cup Series and the F1600 Canada Series will be running.



THE LUCKY NUMBER!

After many seasons with the number 220, Valérie Limoges took advantage of her title 2022 championship to wear number 1 on her Nissan Sentra in 2023. Alexandre Fortin, the defending champion this year, is now wearing the number 1 while Valérie opted for the 777. The lucky number is also a symbol of casinos, which is now one of Valerie's main sponsors. Quite fitting, as she was the first female driver in the history of circuit racing in Canada, after winning the title of Nissan Sentra Cup champion two seasons ago. At CTMP, she not only earned her first podium of the year, she also set the lap record in Saturday's race.



2024 Entries



1 Alexandre Fortin
Québec, QC



7 Jean-François Couture
Mont-St-Hilaire, QC



22 Jean Audet
Québec, QC



27 Marie-Soleil Labelle
Gatineau, QC



37 Steve Poulin
Thetford Mines, QC



46 Christian Thibault
Blainville, QC



50 Nicolas Lévesque
Trois-Rivières, QC



63 Frédéric Chaput
Québec, QC



63 Mario Charette
Yamachiche, QC



88 Rénaud Hamelin
Trois-Rivières, QC



91 Simon Vincent
St-Jérôme, QC



95 Daniel Fortin
Québec, QC



99 Sylvain Ouellet
Louiseville, QC



08 Martin Harvey
Berthierville, QC



116 Éric Chaput
St-Augustin-de-Desmaures, QC



191 Mathieu Miron
Bois-des-Filion, QC



192 Nicolas Miron
Bois-des-Filion, QC



210 Stéphane Pouliot
Saguenay, QC



419 Raphaël St-Pierre
Trois-Rivières, QC



427 Nicolas Barrette
Sorel-Tracy, QC



777 Valérie Limoges
Brossard, QC



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Reflecting on how it all started...



Series' debut at Circuit Mont-Tremblant, in May 2015.

This year marks the tenth season of the Nissan Sentra Cup, which began as the Micra Cup in 2015. As an homage to the series, we will share several significant stories from its history. Today, we start at the beginning. This is a story about an idea that would become one of the biggest successes in Canadian motorsport's history.

At the Toronto Auto Show in February 2014, Nissan Canada announced the price of the Micra, which was about to be launched in Canada. At the time, it was the only car available for less than \$10,000, which of course, piqued the public's interest in addition to that of Jacques Deshaies, automobile journalist and host, who was looking to create a motorsports series.

Jacques contacted Didier Marsaud, Director of Communications, Nissan Canada, and former member of Renault Sport to tell him that he had thought of a Canadian road racing series concept featuring the small Micras.

"I still remember this call," says Didier. "As Jacques spoke to me, I saw the concept of the Renault Clio Cup transformed for the Canadian market with our Nissan Micras. Jacques did not have to force my hand, the marketing and visibility potential for the Micra seemed obvious to me," he adds.

"I had tested the market with other manufacturers but, due to its selling price, the Micra quickly became my first choice," says promoter Jacques Deshaies. "With many other brands, the budget would have been too high for the newcomers we wanted to attract to the series."

The idea of an affordable Canadian motorsport series was about to take shape. Quickly informed of the project by Didier, Christian Meunier, the president of Nissan Canada at the time, was immediately enthusiastic, understanding that the low-cost car would benefit from being leveraged through motorsports.



Jacques Deshaies, the promoter of the series since its beginnings.



First tests, in the summer of 2014 by Jean-François Dumoulin at Autodrome St-Eustache.

Unlike Renault Sport, which organizes the Clio Cup in Europe, Nissan Canada was not meant to be the series' promoter. Instead, Jacques and his company, JD Promotion & Compétition would take on this role after presenting the idea to the President of Nissan Canada and the Director of Communications at the New York Auto Show in April 2014.

After this meeting, Nissan Canada's support was guaranteed. The series was therefore on the right track but still needed the green light from Nissan's international branches. Nismo Global Motorsport's big boss at the time, Darren Cox, fully supported the project, on one condition: test a prototype to ensure its reliability and technical limits.

Fast forward to the summer of 2014. "No one had tested a Micra on the track yet. The condition was clear: cover the equivalent of a full season in kilometers during test sessions to offer the drivers who were going to acquire these cars a perfectly reliable product," adds Didier Marsaud.

It was Jean-François Dumoulin, double winner of the 24 Hours of Daytona and renowned for his talent behind the wheel of both Endurance and NASCAR cars, who was chosen for these secret testing sessions. Pushed to the limit every day during track sessions at Autodrome St-Eustache, the Micra experienced no serious issues. The test was successful, and the green light was officially given!

A few weeks later, Nissan dealers, followed by the public and media, learned the big news: the series would launch on Canadian tracks in the spring of 2015.

"I still remember, some people told me at launch that announcing a series six months before the first race was too late," explains Jacques Deshaies. "But I have never regretted this tight schedule: we had 22 drivers registered for the first event in May 2015, and throughout the inaugural season, not a single car retired from a race following a mechanical failure."

While JD Promotion & Compétition managed the execution of the series, almost every Nissan Canada department, from marketing, social media and communications to technical support and after-sales, along with third party vendors, were involved in promoting the launch of the series.

From the first season, there were many fans in the paddocks to discover the series.

On May 23, 2015, twenty-one Nissan Micra Cup drivers were on the starting grid for the very first race, at Circuit Mont-Tremblant.

"Roxane Barry, who had joined Nissan Canada from France three weeks earlier to work on the project, watched the first race with me and emotion overwhelmed us: we had won, the dream had come true," shares Didier Marsaud.

For Christian Meunier, whose support for the series has never wavered, just like that of his successors Joni Paiva, and Steve Milette, the emotion came a little later: in June, when the Grand Prix of Canada welcomed the series of small Micras in support of Formula 1.

It's impressive to see how far we've come since Jacques Deshaies' phone call to Didier Marsaud in February 2014! And when we look at the evolution of what is now the Nissan Sentra Cup, we see how the initial concept, supported by Nissan Canada since 2015, could not have become anything other than a success.





Results and standings

Canadian Tire Motorsport Park - Event 1

QUALIFICATION RACE 1

1) Alexandre Fortin	#1
2) Éric Chaput	#116
3) Daniel Fortin	#95
4) Valérie Limoges	#777
5) Nicolas Barrette	#427
6) Sylvain Ouellet	#99
7) Mathieu Miron	#191
8) Nicolas Miron	#192
9) Simon Vincent	#91
10) Jean-François Couture	#7
11) Nicolas Lévesque	#50
12) Raphaël St-Pierre	#419
13) Jean Audet	#22
14) Christian Thibault	#46
15) Martin Harvey	#08
16) Marie-Soleil Labelle	#27
17) Stéphane Pouliot	#210
18) Steve Poulin	#37
19) Mario Charette	#63

RESULTS RACE 1

1) Alexandre Fortin	24 laps
2) Valérie Limoges	-0.622
3) Éric Chaput	-13.265
4) Daniel Fortin	-18.677
5) Nicolas Barrette	-19.062
6) Sylvain Ouellet	-22.669
7) Nicolas Miron	-32.500
8) Simon Vincent	-32.648
9) Nicolas Lévesque	-35.532
10) Raphaël St-Pierre	-36.249
11) Jean-François Couture	-44.867
12) Jean Audet	-1:08.550
13) Stéphane Pouliot	-1:21.937
14) Marie-Soleil Labelle	-1:22.267
15) Martin Harvey	-1:22.322
16) Christian Thibault	-1:45.713
17) Mario Charette	-1 lap
18) Steve Poulin	-1 lap
19) Mathieu Miron	-11 laps

QUALIFICATION RACE 2

1) Alexandre Fortin	Ste-Foy Nissan / Fix Auto
2) Éric Chaput	Groupe Gabriel / Mallette
3) Daniel Fortin	Ste-Foy Nissan / Fix Auto
4) Valérie Limoges	Groupe Gabriel / Wolinak Casino
5) Sylvain Ouellet	Ouellet Motorsport
6) Frédérick Chaput	Groupe Gabriel / Mallette
7) Nicolas Barrette	Groupe RM
8) Mathieu Miron	191 Motorsport
9) Simon Vincent	Vincent2 racing team
10) Nicolas Miron	191 Motorsport
11) Nicolas Lévesque	Lévesque Motorsport
12) Jean-François Couture	Céramique O-Nivo
13) Raphaël St-Pierre	Sensei Groupe-Conseil
14) Jean Audet	Grand Times Hôtel
15) Christian Thibault	Équipe Christian Thibault
16) Martin Harvey	Wingho Racing
17) Marie-Soleil Labelle	Musée Gilles-Villeneuve
18) Stéphane Pouliot	Équipe Stéphane Pouliot
19) Steve Poulin	Nissan Thetford

RESULTS RACE 2

1) Nicolas Barrette	21 laps
2) Daniel Fortin	-4.176
3) Simon Vincent	-4.753
4) Mathieu Miron	-5.152
5) Nicolas Miron	-5.348
6) Nicolas Lévesque	-5.881
7) Frédérick Chaput	-6.286
8) Sylvain Ouellet	-6.752
9) Jean-François Couture	-7.340
10) Raphaël St-Pierre	-7.681
11) Christian Thibault	-15.216
12) Martin Harvey	-16.555
13) Jean Audet	-23.967
14) Valérie Limoges	-41.103
15) Marie-Soleil Labelle	-41.380
16) Steve Poulin	-1:31.005
17) Alexandre Fortin	- 2 laps
18) Stéphane Pouliot	-20 laps
19) Éric Chaput	-21 laps



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Results and standings

Canadian Tire Motorsport Park - Event 1

CHAMPIONSHIP STANDINGS

Position	#	Driver	Races	Points
1.	427	Nicolas Barrette	2	84
1.	95	Daniel Fortin	2	84
3.	1	Alexandre Fortin	2	70
4.	91	Simon Vincent	2	68
5.	777	Valérie Limoges	2	65
6.	192	Nicolas Miron	2	62
7.	99	Sylvain Ouellet	2	56
8.	116	Éric Chaput	2	54
8.	50	Nicolas Lévesque	2	54
10.	191	Mathieu Miron	2	50
11.	419	Raphaël St-Pierre	2	44
11.	7	Jean-François Couture	2	44
13.	22	Jean Audet	2	37
14.	08	Martin Harvey	2	35
14.	46	Christian Thibault	2	35
16.	27	Marie-Soleil Labelle	2	33
17.	210	Stéphane Pouliot	2	31
18.	37	Steve Poulin	2	28
18.	63	Frédéric Chaput	1	28
20.	63	Mario Charette	1	14





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The next event will take place on July 7, at the ICAR Complex, as part of the second edition of the Nissan Grand Prix. This event will feature the Nissan Sentra Cup, in addition to a multitude of activities for motorsport and Nissan fans.



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