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# SENTRA CUP MAGAZINE



Canadian Tire Motorsport Park  
**AUGUST 30, 31, SEPTEMBER 1, 2024**

**EVENT 5**



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Summary



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## Simon Vincent Claims First Nissan Sentra Cup Victory; Valérie Limoges Wins Second Race at CTMP, Closing in on Championship Title

Races 9 and 10 of the 2024 Nissan Sentra Cup took place this weekend at Canadian Tire Motorsport Park during the Labour Day Weekend



The Nissan Sentra Cup returned to Ontario this weekend for its penultimate event of the 2024 season. As part of the Labour Day holiday in Canada, the series featured two new races, won by Simon Vincent and Valérie Limoges.

The event, which included the Nissan Sentra Cup and several American motorsport series, attracted thousands of spectators on Friday. Free practice and qualifying sessions took place for the twenty drivers competing in the Nissan Sentra Cup. By the end of qualifying, an unexpected hierarchy emerged, with Daniel Fortin securing pole position ahead of four title contenders: Simon Vincent, Nicolas Barrette, Valérie Limoges, and Alexandre Fortin.

On Saturday, despite summer temperatures and a track still wet from overnight storms, the first 40-minute race began. Simon Vincent, a rally

champion, made a perfect start from 2<sup>nd</sup> position and led the race. After two full-course cautions due to incidents involving Jean-François Couture and Sylvain Ouellet, the final restart saw Vincent make a decisive move while Barrette and Alexandre Fortin battled for second place. On the last lap, Barrette closed to within half a second of Vincent but couldn't overtake him, securing Vincent's first-ever Nissan Sentra Cup victory.

Alexandre Fortin completed the podium, followed by Nicolas Miron, Valérie Limoges, Matthieu Miron, Daniel Fortin, and Frédéric Chaput. Éric Chaput finished ninth, and Nicolas Lévesque rounded out the top 10.

On a beautiful Sunday, the second race featured Valérie Limoges and Nicolas Barrette in the front row. Limoges maintained her lead through the initial turns, with the top three (Limoges, Barrette, and Vincent)



quickly distancing themselves from the rest of the pack, initially led by Alexandre Fortin and later by brothers Nicolas and Matthieu Miron.

Despite several overtaking attempts, the leading order remained unchanged. Valérie Limoges secured her fourth victory of the season, holding off Barrette and Vincent throughout the incident-free, forty-minute race. The top three were separated by just seven-tenths of a second at the finish line. Frédéric Chaput finished fourth after an intense battle with Nicolas Miron. Matthieu Miron, Nicolas Lévesque, Éric

Chaput, Jean-François Couture and Raphaël St-Pierre rounded out the top ten.

In the Nissan Sentra Cup championship standings, Valérie Limoges is still in the lead but has not yet clinched the 2024 title, which would be her second in three seasons. She leads Nicolas Barrette, Simon Vincent, Matthieu Miron and Alexandre Fortin in points. While all five drivers remain in contention for the title, Fortin's chances are slim after a puncture relegated him to 17<sup>th</sup> place in the second race this weekend.



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## CTMP news

### A PREMIERE IN CANADIAN MOTORSPORT!

The Nissan Sentra Cup has achieved several milestones in Canadian motorsport. One notable moment occurred on Saturday, August 31 at CTMP when Simon Vincent crossed the finish line as the winner, becoming the first driver to secure an overall win in both the Canadian Rally Championship (winning the Rallye de Charlevoix in Quebec in October 2023) and a national road racing event within a year. Interestingly, Simon was born during a Canadian Rally



Championship competition, the Rallye Baie-des-Chaleurs in Gaspesia, Quebec, in 1992. His father, Sylvain, arrived at the hospital still in his racing suit to witness Simon's birth, just half an hour after the event concluded!



### DAVID GOSSELIN, NEWCOMER TO THE SERIES

Following Luc Beaudoin's debut at the Grand Prix de Trois-Rivières, another new driver joined the Nissan Sentra Cup. David Gosselin made his debut at CTMP, finishing 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> in the two races. At CTMP, he formed the Go Racing team with Christian Thibault. For David, this marks a return to competition after several years away, having previously been the vice-champion of the Super Production Challenge series in 2012, with two wins and seven podiums.



### **COURAGEOUS NICOLAS BARRETTE!**

After a fall on an electric bike just days before heading to CTMP, Nicolas Barrette still bore some marks from his tumble. Putting on his suit was particularly painful due to injuries to his shoulder and collarbone. Many would have withdrawn, but Nicolas Barrette's passion and his determination as Valérie Limoges' main rival for the 2024 title kept him going. Despite the pain, the driver of the Nissan Sentra No. 427 managed to cut six points from Limoges' lead over the weekend, keeping the title race alive until the season finale at the end of the month in Calabogie.



### **A CHAMPION THAT WILL BE DECIDED AT THE LAST EVENT...**

The Nissan Sentra Cup championship has never been decided before the final event, often coming down to the last race. The 2024 season is no exception, with five drivers still in contention. Valérie Limoges, Nicolas Barrette, and Simon Vincent are the main contenders, separated by less than 50 points. Matthieu Miron and Alexandre Fortin also have a chance, but their success depends on the withdrawals or exclusions of their opponents due to their greater points deficit. Pictured from left to right are the five title contenders: Alexandre Fortin, Matthieu Miron, Nicolas Barrette, Simon Vincent, and Valérie Limoges.



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## Postcard from the Labour Day Weekend Sprints



The Labour Day Weekend Sprints at Canadian Tire Motorsport Park marked the American Trans Am series' to Canada for the first time in nearly a decade. The event also featured the Formula Regional Americas (F3) and USF4 Open Wheel series, along with major Canadian series like NASCAR Canada (won by Kevin Lacroix, a former Micra Cup competitor) and the Nissan Sentra Cup. Over four days, spectators enjoyed 14 races, with many camping along the track in motorhomes to fully immerse themselves in the action.





While the Nissan Sentra race cars remain nearly stock, they look like true race cars. Inside, the usual comfort features of the street model are removed to make room for a safety cage and series-mandated accessories, which are identical across all cars. However, the dashboard remains original. Here, we see the interior of Daniel Fortin's Sentra No. 95 from the Beauport and Ste-Foy Nissan team, who set the fastest time during the qualifying session for Race 1 on Saturday.

The Nissan Sentra Cup continues to grow. At the Labour Day Weekend Sprints in 2021, the first season with the new Sentra race cars, 20 drivers competed, but only 12 were in Sentras as 8 drivers were still racing Micras. This weekend, three years later, 20 drivers, as seen at the GP3R in August, all competed in Sentras. This season, 22 drivers are entered in the championship, marking an 85% increase in Sentras on track compared to 2021.



# DRIVE FESTIVAL

SEPTEMBER 6, 7, AND 8

Nissan Canada's activities at Canadian Tire Motorsport Park continue next weekend with the Drive Festival on September 6, 7, and 8. This large-scale automotive exhibition will feature many attractions, including a D-BOX Motion Zone presented by Nissan. Fans can experience cutting-edge technology and feel what it's like to be a professional driver.



The Nissan Sentra Cup demo car will be on display in the Motion Zone.

D-BOX creates immersive entertainment experiences using haptic technology, enhancing the way people interact with content. Prominent in sim racing, D-BOX's motion systems provide realistic racing simulations for both professional and amateur drivers.



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# Austin Riley: Proving 'Nothing is Impossible' in the Series



Throughout the ten seasons of the Nissan Sentra Cup, which launched as the Micra Cup in 2015, competitors from diverse backgrounds have taken part in the series. Drivers from the Nissan GT Academy, NASCAR or Endurance stars looking for fun in one or more events, young karting drivers aspiring to international careers, amateurs, and newcomers to motorsport have all been drawn to the appeal of driving in a safe, structured, and affordable series.

Few have won races due to the high level of competition at the front. It's the challenging nature of the sport. However, for Austin Riley, crossing the finish line first wasn't necessary to enjoy a victory! His success came from

Austin Riley was at CTMP this weekend. He and his father spent Sunday in the Nissan Canada lodge and watched the Nissan Sentra Cup race.



participating in the 2017 Nissan Micra Cup, an event many thought impossible for him as he is on the spectrum.

Diagnosed with autism at age 12, Riley has always loved cars and motorsport. Driven by his childhood dream of becoming a racing driver, Austin started in karting before moving to the Nissan Micra Cup. "Our family is thrilled to see Austin achieve his dream of becoming a race car driver, and we are grateful for the support he has received from his fellow drivers, fans, and event organizers," said Jason Riley, Austin's father and founder of Racing With Autism, an organization dedicated to raising awareness for autism and Austin's official racing team. "Choosing the Nissan Micra Cup in 2017 was the perfect way for Austin to transition from karting to racing cars."

Austin Riley, then 17, from Uxbridge, Ontario, competed in his first Nissan Micra Cup race at Canadian Tire Motorsport Park on May 20, 2017. The event made headlines. At exactly 5:05:22 p.m., the green flag dropped for his first race. Austin finished in 16<sup>th</sup> place, the fifth-best rookie driver.

Austin's debut in May 2017, in the Nissan Micra Cup.

Austin credited his sharp focus on the track for his success, but what he gained off the track was equally valuable, attributing his confidence boost to his experience racing in the Nissan Micra Cup. "Stories like Austin's bring us great joy. The Nissan Micra Cup was created to allow people to live their racing dreams, and the community's support for Austin is a testament to the great people involved in this series," said Joni Paiva, then president of Nissan Canada, at the end of the 2017 season. Austin Riley finished the championship in 17<sup>th</sup> position and ranked 4<sup>th</sup> among rookie drivers. No fewer than 11 drivers were rookies that year in the series.

Austin Riley's mantra is: "Nothing is impossible." He proved this in the following seasons in the Nissan Micra Cup. In 2018, he finished ninth in the championship, competing in 10 of the 12 races, having missed the Grand Prix de Trois-

Rivières, which cost him several points. 2019 was a season of on-track exploits for Austin Riley as he became the first autistic driver to climb on a podium in a Canadian Road Racing series, finishing third at Calabogie on June 2. He did even better on August 25 at CTMP, fighting with eventual champion Marco Signoretti for the win. He finished second, setting the fastest lap of the race. That day, Austin earned the respect of his rivals as a driver who consistently competed at the front



“

*The Nissan Sentra Cup has given me a lot of things, including confidence to help me go further in motorsport.”*

- Austin Riley

”



Austin Riley (green car) battling for victory with Marco Signoretti at CTMP in 2019.

of the field. He finished the season in 7<sup>th</sup> place in the championship standings, collecting a third and final podium at the finale at Circuit Mont-Tremblant on September 29.

Austin Riley continued his career under the Racing With Autism banner in the Radical Canadian Prototype Championship, quickly winning the title in this series before moving on to the highly competitive American Radical Championship. From small Micras to prototypes, Austin Riley has made meteoric progress.

The Nissan Cup has allowed drivers to realize their dreams of starting in motorsports, winning, and even winning titles. When the series was created in 2015, no one imagined it would be the perfect springboard for a young autistic driver to launch a career in the challenging world of motorsport. But that's exactly what happened with Austin Riley.



# Results and standings

## Canadian Tire Motorsport Park - Event 5

### QUALIFICATION RACE 1

1) Daniel Fortin	#95
2) Simon Vincent	#91
3) Nicolas Barrette	#427
4) Valérie Limoges	#777
5) Alexandre Fortin	#1
6) Nicolas Miron	#192
7) Frédérick Chaput	#63
8) Matthieu Miron	#191
9) Éric Chaput	#116
10) Sylvain Ouellet	#99
11) Jean-François Couture	#7
12) Nicolas Lévesque	#50
13) Raphaël St-Pierre	#419
14) Jean Audet	#22
15) Stéphane Pouliot	#210
16) Christian Thibault	#46
17) Steve Poulin	#37
18) David Gosselin	#49
19) Marie-Soleil Labelle	#27
20) Luc Beaudoin	#69

### RESULTS RACE 1

1) Simon Vincent	17 laps
2) Nicolas Barrette	-0.481
3) Alexandre Fortin	-3.023
4) Nicolas Miron	-3.175
5) Valérie Limoges	-3.309
6) Matthieu Miron	-3.653
7) Daniel Fortin	-4.115
8) Frédérick Chaput	-4.332
9) Éric Chaput	-5.504
10) Nicolas Lévesque	-6.134
11) Raphaël St-Pierre	-10.100
12) Jean Audet	-11.373
13) Steve Poulin	-13.167
14) David Gosselin	-20.660
15) Marie-Soleil Labelle	-21.097
16) Stéphane Pouliot	-28.529
17) Luc Beaudoin	-41.228
18) Sylvain Ouellet	-8 laps
19) Christian Thibault	-12 laps
20) Jean-François Couture	-17 laps

### QUALIFICATION RACE 2

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

### RESULTS RACE 2

1) Valérie Limoges	24 laps
2) Nicolas Barrette	-0.411
3) Simon Vincent	-0.750
4) Frédérick Chaput	-8.689
5) Nicolas Miron	-9.006
6) Matthieu Miron	-19.733
7) Nicolas Lévesque	-29.347
8) Éric Chaput	-31.411
9) Jean-François Couture	-44.289
10) Raphaël St-Pierre	-44.947
11) Jean Audet	-1:12.156
12) Daniel Fortin	-1:12.577
13) Stéphane Pouliot	-1:33.693
14) Steve Poulin	-1:34.480
15) David Gosselin	-1 lap
16) Marie-Soleil Labelle	-1 lap
17) Alexandre Fortin	-1 lap
18) Luc Beaudoin	-1 lap
19) Christian Thibault	-17 laps
20) Sylvain Ouellet	-21 laps


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# Results and standings

■ Canadian Tire Motorsport Park - Event 5

## CHAMPIONSHIP STANDINGS

Position	#	Driver	Races	Points
1.	777	Valérie Limoges	10	429
2.	427	Nicolas Barrette	10	404
3.	91	Simon Vincent	10	370
4.	191	Matthieu Miron	10	368
5.	1	Alexandre Fortin	10	341
6.	116	Éric Chaput	10	285
7.	192	Nicolas Miron	8	256
8.	50	Nicolas Lévesque	10	255
9.	95	Daniel Fortin	10	240
10.	419	Raphaël St-Pierre	10	221
11.	7	Jean-François Couture	10	214
12.	22	Jean Audet	10	208
13.	99	Sylvain Ouellet	10	181
14.	210	Stéphane Pouliot	10	173
15.	63	Frédéric Chaput	7	172
16.	37	Steve Poulin	10	168
17.	27	Marie-Soleil Labelle	10	165
18.	46	Christian Thibault	10	162
19.	08	Martin Harvey	6	100
20.	69	Luc Beaudoin	4	60
21.	49	David Gosselin	2	33
22.	63	Mario Charette	1	14





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The next event will be held at Calabogie Motorsports Park on September 28-29. This will be the first time in its history that the Nissan Sentra Cup will hold its season finale in Ontario. The circuit, located southwest of Ottawa, will see the series share the spotlight with the Super Production Challenge finale.



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