



MICRA CUP

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RACES 3 AND 4

MAY 26, 27, 28

CIRCUIT MONT-TREMBLANT

ACTION IN THE LAURENTIANS!

ROUND

2



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BÉDARD AND COUPAL **NISSAN MICRA CUP RACE WINNERS** AT THE CIRCUIT MONT-TREMBLANT

– Two spectacular races and a successful weekend for actor Michel Barrette's official debut –

Just one week after the first race weekend of the 2017 season, the Nissan Micra Cup drivers were back on the track this weekend at the Circuit Mont-Tremblant for the Spring Classic. The second weekend of the season marked popular actor and comedian Michel Barrette's debut as a Nissan Micra Cup driver, and featured two action-packed races. The first race was won by Olivier Bédard on Saturday and the second race was won by Xavier Coupal on Sunday.

After a productive day of practice sessions on Friday, the Nissan Micra Cup drivers kicked off the first day of racing on Saturday with the traditional qualifying sessions, under an overcast but dry sky. Winner of the first two races of the season, Jean-Michel Isabelle earned himself the pole position ahead of 2016 champion Xavier Coupal and 2015 champion Olivier Bédard. Valérie Limoges, the only female driver competing this season, made her mark and claimed fourth fastest time ahead of Kevin King, Stéfán Gauthier, top senior class driver Metod Topolnik, Australian Keishi Ayukai, Nicolas Touchette and British driver Jake Exton. Vincent Doyle was the fastest rookie, followed by Nicolas Barrette.

In the afternoon, 22 drivers got behind the wheel of their practically stock Nissan Micras, in front of numerous fans lining the track, and competed in the first race of the weekend. A duel between Jean-Michel Isabelle and Xavier Coupal caused a minor incident at the front of the pack, allowing Valérie Limoges to take the lead halfway through the race. As soon as the race restarted, Olivier Bédard surprised his fellow drivers and claimed his first victory of the season.

Kevin King and Valérie Limoges completed the podium, ahead of Keishi Ayukai, who performed extremely well for his first time competing at the Circuit Mont-Tremblant, and Normand Boyer, winner of the senior class for the third consecutive time. For the rookies, Vincent Doyle earned his first victory ahead of Nicolas Barrette and Austin Riley. Michel Barrette also performed well for his first official motorsport race, finishing seventeenth overall, seventh in the senior class, and fourth amongst the rookies.

On Sunday, Coupal and Bédard shared the starting line and their battle lasted throughout the duration of the race. Coupal, the 2016 champion,

finished ahead of Bédard claiming his first victory of the 2017 season. The fight for the podium's third place was also very intense, with positions constantly changing every lap. Qualifying in ninth place, Valérie Limoges had an excellent climb up the leaderboard, rounding out a first, second and third finish for the Total Canada team's drivers.

The Sorel-Tracy Nissan teammates Kevin King and Stéfán Gauthier completed the top five, ahead of Jean-Michel Isabelle and Metod Topolnik, who won the senior class for the first time, ahead of Normand Boyer. Among the rookies, Jake Exton claimed first place following Sunday's race. Michel Barrette finished in sixteenth place following a spectacular battle with his son Nicolas, with three thousandths of a second separating both drivers at the finish line.

For more information on the Nissan Micra Cup, please go to the website www.nissan.ca/micracup. Don't miss series news and updates on the [Coupe Nissan Micra Cup Facebook page](#) and live tweets/results during practice, qualifying, and races on [Twitter: @micracup](#), on [Instagram: nissanmicracup](#)



THE WORLD OF THE NISSAN MICRA CUP



THE NISSAN MICRA OWNERS... ON THE TRACK!

Similar to the first race weekend at the Canadian Tire Motorsport Park last week, numerous Nissan Micra owners attended the second race weekend at the Circuit Mont-Tremblant. For the 2017 season, Nissan Canada is inviting Nissan Micra owners to attend all race weekends free of charge. In order to take advantage of this opportunity, Nissan Micra owners must register three weeks in advance at <http://www.micracup.com/eventregistration/>. All registered Nissan Micra owners will receive two free tickets and parking access for the race weekend of their choice. The Nissan Micra owners that attended the race weekend at Circuit Mont-Tremblant had the opportunity to do a parade lap of the track on both Saturday and Sunday. Nearly 50 Nissan Micra owners were present and for most of them, it was their first introduction to motorsports. It was also an exciting opportunity for them to witness how their Micras perform on the track, in the hands of the very talented Nissan Micra Cup drivers.



TEST-DRIVE THE NISSAN MICRA CUP RACE CARS ON JUNE 18 AT ICAR

Do you want to get behind the wheel of a Nissan Micra Cup race car and experience the fun that the drivers have on the track? If yes, then you don't want to miss this opportunity. On June 18 at ICAR in Mirabel, the promoter of the Nissan Micra Cup, JD Promotion & Compétition, is organizing a discovery day for the Nissan Micra Cup race cars. During the discovery day, the Total Team drivers including Valérie Limoges, Olivier Bédard and Xavier Coupal, will act as instructors and will teach you how to operate a Nissan Micra Cup race car. To participate, you must register at <http://www.micracup.com/eventregistration/> as of June 1. The cost is \$295 for a 20-minute session. Each participant, in addition to having time behind the wheel of a real Nissan Micra Cup race car, will have the opportunity to be a passenger in a Nissan GT-R as their instructor takes them on an exciting lap around the track at full speed! A fantastic experience and a fun way to celebrate Father's Day.



A REAL CHAMPIONSHIP FOR THOSE 40 YEARS OLD AND OVER!

This season, the Nissan Micra Cup organizers decided to create a senior class, a new category reserved for drivers 40 years old and over. It is part of the all-category group and is a major success, since 13 of the 28 drivers registered in the Nissan Micra Cup are eligible to be a part of this new category. Normand Boyer, winner of the first three races of the season, appears to be the favourite. But he will have to be mindful of Metod Topolnik, 2015 rookie runner-up, as well as of Frédéric Bernier, who regularly finishes amongst the top performers. It can be assumed that the Nissan Micra Cup fans will also avidly follow the legendary Michel Barrette's results, who is this season's rookie and oldest driver in the Nissan Micra Cup. Similar to the drivers in the all-category group, the senior class drivers that finish on the podium will be rewarded with cheques offered by the after-sales department of Nissan Canada.

THE NISSAN MICRA CUP WILL RETURN TO THE CIRCUIT MONT-TREMBLANT IN JULY

The next race weekend of the 2017 Nissan Micra Cup is being held at the Circuit Mont-Tremblant for the Summer Classic, from July 21 to 23. The practices sessions will take place on Friday, and the qualifications and races will take place on Saturday and Sunday. This race weekend will be full of excitement and should not be missed. It will also mark the end of the first half of the 2017 season.



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2... 3 QUESTIONS FOR... **MICHEL BARRETTE**

Michel Barrette, who is recognized as a legendary comedian in Quebec, actor, broadcast personality and hotel owner, can now add "Nissan Micra Cup driver" to his impressive list of achievements. A collector of vintage cars and lover of motorsports, Michel made his debut in the series this weekend at the Circuit Mont-Tremblant. We had the chance to ask the famous 2017 rookie a few questions, and his answers are below.



You've had the opportunity to drive almost every car. Why did you choose to compete in the Nissan Micra Cup as your first official motorsport championship?

Because all drivers compete in spec cars, meaning that all of the race cars are of equal strength and are built the same way. The outcome of the competition depends on the talent of the driver, not the engineering of the race car. It happens behind the wheel. After you finish a race, you can't blame your lack of performance on your car's engine strength,

since all drivers are competing in the same Nissan Micras. I like the series because it presents a learning curve. If the driver in front of you drives faster, it's simply because he is a better driver. The Nissan Micra Cup also appeals to me because of its affordability. I am 60 years old and two of my sons are also competing in the series. It's a great way to start a career in motorsport, or in my case, allows you to enjoy racing in a fun environment and at an affordable cost. I also value the reliability of the Nissan Micras. When you drive your Nissan Micra around the track, you know that you will

be able to finish each race and stay safe while doing it.

Beyond the 2017 Nissan Micra Cup, you obviously have a lot of commitments in the world of art. Will it be easy for you to balance racing with your other activities, or do you expect it to be a logistical nightmare?

I will deal with it on a case-by-case basis. That said, I plan on prioritizing the Nissan Micra Cup race weekends over the many artistic projects that I'm involved in. There are a few television producers who aren't overly happy about this, because they want to film, but I prefer being on the track compared to being behind the camera.

Your sons won first and second place in the rookie championship last weekend in Ontario. Are you proud of their performance or do you see it as a personal challenge to beat them throughout the 2017 season?

I am very proud of my sons and I don't see it as a challenge. Even though I have more experience driving, I don't see myself competing in the same class as them due to my age. My sons have youth on their side and much better reflexes. I could tell everyone that I plan on beating the young drivers, but that would simply make me an old over-confident guy trying to boast! I am competing in the Nissan Micra Cup against myself. Improving my time is the most important. I obviously don't want to finish last, but I don't expect to finish first. If I find myself at the front of the pack, I will be very happy.



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POSTCARD





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CIRCUIT MONT-TREMBLANT RACE 3 AND 4 RESULTS

ROUND
2

QUALIFICATION RACE 1

1) Jean-Michel Isabelle	No.86
2) Xavier Coupal	No.1
3) Olivier Bédard	No.99
4) Valérie Limoges	No.220
5) Kevin King	No.40
6) Stéfán Gauthier	No.96
7) Metod Topolnik	No.78
8) Keishi Ayukai	No.59
9) Nicolas Touchette	No.55
10) Jake Exton	No.00
11) Normand Boyer	No.11
12) Frédéric Bernier	No.28
13) Marc-Antoine Cardin	No.4
14) Vincent Doyle	No.3
15) Nicolas Barrette	No.427
16) Austin Riley	No.20
17) Luc Richard	No.26
18) Peter Dyck	No.73
19) Alex Habrich	No.75
20) Michel Barrette	No.57
21) Michael Habrich	No.88
22) Fadi Mourad	No.77

QUALIFICATION RACE 2

1) Xavier Coupal	No.1
2) Olivier Bédard	No.99
3) Stéfán Gauthier	No.96
4) Metod Topolnik	No.78
5) Kevin King	No.40
6) Jean-Michel Isabelle	No.86
7) Keishi Ayukai	No.59
8) Normand Boyer	No.11
9) Valérie Limoges	No.220
10) Frédéric Bernier	No.28
11) Vincent Doyle	No.3
12) Nicolas Touchette	No.55
13) Marc-Antoine Cardin	No.4
14) Austin Riley	No.20
15) Nicolas Barrette	No.427
16) Peter Dyck	No.73
17) Michel Barrette	No.57
18) Alex Habrich	No.75
19) Michael Habrich	No.88
20) Fadi Mourad	No.77
21) Jake Exton	No.00
22) Luc Richard	No.26

RACE 1

1) Olivier Bédard	13 laps
2) Kevin King	-0.831
3) Valérie Limoges	-1.501
4) Keishi Ayukai	-2.655
5) Normand Boyer (S)	-3.667
6) Metod Topolnik (S)	-3.982
7) Stéfán Gauthier	-4.450
8) Frédéric Bernier (S)	-4.849
9) Nicolas Touchette (S)	-5.172
10) Marc-Antoine Cardin	-6.294
11) Vincent Doyle (R)	-6.678
12) Jake Exton (R)	Penalty
13) Austin Riley (R)	-7.807
14) Peter Dyck (S)	-8.614
15) Alex Habrich (S)	-8.848
16) Michel Barrette (S+R)	-9.841
17) Fadi Mourad (R)	-14.582
18) Michael Habrich (R)	-15.179
19) Nicolas Barrette (R)	Penalty
20) Xavier Coupal	-8 laps
21) Jean-Michel Isabelle	-8 laps
22) Luc Richard	-10 laps

RACE 2

1) Xavier Coupal	13 laps
2) Olivier Bédard	-0.485
3) Valérie Limoges	-15.436
4) Kevin King	-15.878
5) Stéfán Gauthier	-16.840
6) Jean-Michel Isabelle	-22.936
7) Metod Topolnik (S)	-23.007
8) Normand Boyer (S)	-23.691
9) Jake Exton (R)	-27.311
10) Frédéric Bernier (S)	-30.412
11) Nicolas Touchette (S)	-32.141
12) Keishi Ayukai	Penalty
13) Austin Riley (R)	-43.923
14) Peter Dyck (S)	-58.909
15) Nicolas Barrette (R)	-1:00.900
16) Michel Barrette (S+R)	-1:01:205
17) Alex Habrich (S)	-1:01:756
18) Fadi Mourad (R)	-1:13:435
19) Michael Habrich (R)	-2:09:401
20) Vincent Doyle (R)	-3 laps
21) Marc-Antoine Cardin	-5 laps
22) Luc Richard	D.N.S.



DRIVERS STANDINGS

1) Kevin King	132 points	14) Vincent Doyle (Rookie)	28 points
2) Olivier Bédard	118 points	15) Austin Riley (Rookie)	27 points
3) Xavier Coupal	113 points	16) Nicolas Touchette (Senior)	24 points
4) Jean-Michel Isabelle	106 points	17) Jake Exton (Rookie)	23 points
5) Valérie Limoges	102 points	18) Alex Habrich (Senior)	22 points
6) Keishi Ayukai	99 points	19) Luc Richard	17 points
7) Normand Boyer (Senior)	84 points	19) Edward Wong (Senior)	17 points
8) Stéfán Gauthier	62 points	21) Victor Simone (Senior)	14 points
9) Marc-Antoine Cardin	46 points	21) Martin Barrette (Rookie)	14 points
10) Metod Topolnik (Senior)	38 points	23) Michael Habrich (Rookie)	13 points
11) Peter Dyck (Senior)	34 points	24) Michel Barrette (Rookie+Senior)	10 points
12) Frédéric Bernier (Senior)	31 points	25) Fadi Mourad (Rookie)	7 points
13) Nicolas Barrette (Rookie)	29 points	26) Brian Makse (Senior)	3 points

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