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SENTRA CUP

MAGAZINE

Event 3

GP3R

Trois-Rivières, QC
August 4-5-6, 2023



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SP3R GRAND PRIX
TROIS-RIVIÈRES
présenté par  motorsport.tv



Summary



The Nissan Sentra Cup extended for the 2024 and 2025 seasons on Canadian tracks!

Alexandre Fortin winner of the races presented this weekend at the Grand Prix de Trois-Rivières

Launched on Canadian racetracks in 2021 following the success of the Nissan Micra Cup (2015 to 2020), the Nissan Sentra Cup will be extended for two more seasons, in 2024 and 2025. The announcement of this news came as positive surprise for drivers, fans of the brand and Canadian motorsport world and was made this weekend during the Grand Prix de Trois-Rivières, where two races of the series were held. The former saw the victory of Alexandre Fortin on both Saturday and Sunday.

By extending the three-season program to the years 2024 and 2025, Nissan Canada and JD Promotion & Compétition, the series promoter, reaffirm their commitment to Canadian motorsport and allow fans to benefit from the spectacle of the popular series for two more

seasons. With the Nissan Micra Cup that was launched on the tracks in 2015, it will be a full decade (11 seasons) that will have seen Nissan Canada sponsor a series in Canadian motorsport, which constitutes an unprecedented involvement in the country for a Road racing series.

This highly contested 2023 season also confirms the success of the series. "I am very happy to confirm our involvement for the 2024 and 2025 seasons with the Nissan Sentra Cup. In addition to the interest of drivers and fans of the Nissan brand, what is particularly exceptional is that the Nissan Sentra Cup continues to attract new racing enthusiasts and customers of our brand. We witnessed this last month with the first ever Nissan Grand Prix at the Complexe ICAR; and this weekend at the Grand Prix de Trois-Rivières, it was a pleasure to see all these spectators in the grandstands and in our paddocks to follow the series," said Steve Milette, President of Nissan Canada Inc.



The Series' promoter Jacques Deshaies, confirms: "Since the launch of the Nissan Micra Cup in 2015, we have allowed dozens of new drivers to taste the pleasure of motorsport by evolving with almost street cars in a one-make championship where talent always comes above budget. I am very happy with this announcement and I am inviting drivers and fans to the tracks, via social media and on television, for the 2024 and 2025 seasons".

Before getting there, the 2023 season is obviously continuing and this weekend at the Grand Prix de Trois-Rivières, rounds 5 and 6 were presented. Two races with no less than 30 drivers entered, which marked the end of the first half of the season.

Qualified in pole position on Friday, Simon Charbonneau led all the laps of the first race on Saturday, except the last one! Taking advantage of a restart just one lap from the end, Alexandre Fortin surprised the championship leader at the first turn to take the lead and race to his second victory of the season. Charbonneau finished second, just ahead of Valérie Limoges, the defending series champion who battled for a podium spot throughout the 40-minute race.

Sylvain Ouellet, Stefan Gauthier, Nicolas Miron, André Lapointe, Paul Dargis, Marie-Soleil Labelle and Mathieu Miron complete the Top 10. In the Micra class, Frédéric Bernier crossed the finish line in first place, but was excluded from the results for using non-compliant tires. It was Nicolas Lévesque who was declared winner, ahead of Simon Vincent and Sean Scully.

Sunday, in front of full grandstands and a hot summer sun, the second race saw Charbonneau lead from the start, while remaining under pressure from Valérie Limoges then Alexandre Fortin. Contact between Charbonneau and Fortin then allowed Fortin to take the first position few turns later, while Simon Charbonneau fell to 8th place.

Alexandre Fortin won both races. 3rd Saturday, Valérie Limoges finished 2nd, ahead of Nicolas Barrette, Samuel Rowe, Daniel Fortin, Stefan Gauthier, Mathieu Miron, Simon Charbonneau, Nicolas Miron and Frédéric Chaput. In the Micra class, Simon Vincent clinched his very first career victory in the GP3R, ahead of Raphaël St-Pierre and Charles-Étienne Boucher.





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Postcard

FROM TROIS-RIVIÈRES

A record of entries in 2023!

No less than 30 drivers entered the Nissan Sentra Cup at this 2023 edition of the Grand Prix de Trois-Rivières. Twenty-nine of them finally compete, which is a record for this season. Another record, and not just for the 2023 season in this case, is the number of Sentra on track: 19, or two-thirds of the grid.



First in Sentra for Stefan Gauthier

He competed in the Nissan Micra Cup during the 2016 and 2017 seasons, winning the rookie of the year title in 2016. General Manager of the Sorel-Tracy Nissan dealership, Stefan Gauthier was back on track and in the series during the Grand Prix de Trois-Rivières. But now, it's at the wheel of a Sentra! Apart from a slightly optimistic corner which saw him hit a track protection, Stefan had two very good races, finishing 5th then 6th. In qualifying, he was also 6th.





Very busy paddocks at the GP3R!

All spectators with a general admission ticket or given access to the grandstands were allowed to circulate free at the Grand Prix de Trois-Rivières. The Nissan Sentra Cup paddocks attracted the attention of thousands of fans. This 53rd edition of the GP3R was also experienced in the Nissan corporate lodge by several dozen guests from Nissan Canada for an event once again very successful and under the sun, apart from a brief storm on Friday between the free practice session and the qualification.

Nicolas Lévesque and Simon Vincent winners in the Micra class

If the fight at the front and in the Sentras peloton raised passions in the GP3R, both races were also very spectacular in the Micra class. In the first one, Frédéric Bernier made his winning comeback to the series. But, he had used tires not registered at tech scrutineering, as required by the Series' regulations, and he was excluded from the results, thus giving victory to the popular and very promising young driver from Trois-Rivières, Nicolas Lévesque. In the second race, Simon Vincent returned to victory after having successfully duelled with the 2022 class champion, Raphaël St-Pierre.





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Interview Jacques Deshaies, promoter of the Nissan Sentra Cup...



Launched at the start of the 2021 season following the success achieved between 2015 and 2020 with the Micra Cup, the Nissan Sentra Cup will not stop after its third season, at the end of this year. It will be extended for the 2024 and 2025 seasons. A wonderful news shared by series promoter Jacques Deshaies. We met him at the Grand Prix de Trois-Rivières...

First of all, congratulations on this two-year extension for the Nissan Sentra Cup. What does Nissan's involvement since 2015 and the creation of the Nissan Micra Cup mean to you?

We started this adventure together, with Nissan Canada, for 3 years, with the option of another 3 years. But I didn't think it would go until 2025. 10 years, 11 seasons, that's unique for an automobile manufacturer in Canada. Nissan is the first manufacturer in Canada to have such a long uninterrupted involvement in Canadian road racing. We often talk about the ultra-sporty makes and their programs around the world, but for us here in Canada, Nissan is the manufacturer that has given the biggest helping hand to motorsport and it is to their credit. I'm really happy about that and I now have to delay my retirement to continue to improve the series!

Are you going to keep the same rules for the next two seasons, and in particular the presence of the Micra class within the series?

Yes, we will keep both Sentra and Micra categories. As long as we have drivers registered in Micra class and they create action and competition on the track, we will keep this category. As for the regulations, with each new season, we work with our officials to improve them in order to finalize the rules. Next season will be the same and we may have some new points to add to this chapter. Our rulebook is always growing.

At the Complexe ICAR last July, the very first Nissan Grand Prix was a great success with thousands of customers and fans of the brand on site. Will this event return in 2024?

Given the huge popularity this event enjoyed this year and the fantastic response from people to Nissan's invitation, we can now confirm that there will be a second edition of the Nissan Grand Prix in 2024. Steps have been taken with the Complexe ICAR de Mirabel for the organization of the event. We have two possible dates at the moment, both in July.



Over the seasons, we have seen several karting drivers take an interest in road racing and more particularly in the Nissan Sentra Cup, which appears to be the best way to Canadian motorsport for many of them. Do you think there could be a partnership to come with the karting community and in particular for young drivers interested in the series?

This is one of our next goals! We may have neglected the karting environment in the past because we developed many other projects over time, but I would say that the link between our series and the drivers currently racing in karting is now one of our priorities. We want to go see young people, go to karting events, meet them and show them who we are and the many advantages that a series like the Nissan Sentra Cup can bring them in their motorsport future.



RESULTS AND STANDINGS

Grand Prix de Trois-Rivières - Event 3

QUALIFICATION RACE 1

1) Simon Charbonneau	#88
2) Valérie Limoges	#1
3) Nicolas Barrette	#427
4) Alexandre Fortin	#32
5) Samuel Rowe	#23
6) Stefan Gauthier	#96
7) Daniel Fortin	#95
8) Frédéric Chaput	#63
9) André Lapointe	#12
10) Nicolas Miron	#192
11) Mathieu Miron	#191
12) Sylvain Ouellet	#99
13) Luc Richard	#26
14) Jean Audet	#22
15) Vincent Lalande	#13
16) Benoît Gagnon	#20
17) Paul Dargis	#53
18) Christian Thibault	#46
19) Marie-Soleil Labelle	#27
20) Frédéric Bernier	#28
21) Charles-Étienne Boucher	#89
22) Sean Scully	#428
23) Simon Vincent	#91
24) Raphaël St-Pierre	#419
25) Nicolas Lévesque	#50
26) Jean-François Couture	#7
27) Gilbert Christini	#131
28) Max Poirier	#425
29) Jonathan Couture	#21

RESULTS RACE 1

1) Alexandre Fortin	25 laps
2) Simon Charbonneau	-0.355
3) Valérie Limoges	-1.082
4) Sylvain Ouellet	-2.725
5) Stefan Gauthier	-3.176
6) Nicolas Miron	-3.908
7) André Lapointe	-5.789
8) Paul Dargis	-12.763
9) Marie-Soleil Labelle	-13.251
10) Mathieu Miron	-13.339
11) Benoît Gagnon	Penalty
12) Nicolas Lévesque	-1 lap
13) Simon Vincent	-1 lap
14) Sean Scully	-1 lap
15) Raphaël St-Pierre	-1 lap
16) Max Poirier	-1 lap
17) Jonathan Couture	-1 lap
18) Charles-Étienne Boucher	-1 lap
19) Gilbert Christini	-2 laps
20) Jean-François Couture	-2 laps
21) Vincent Lalande	-5 laps
22) Samuel Rowe	-6 laps
23) Jean Audet	-6 laps
24) Nicolas Barrette	-11 laps
25) Frédéric Chaput	-14 laps
26) Luc Richard	-22 laps
27) Christian Thibault	-22 laps
28) Daniel Fortin	-25 laps
Exclu) Frédéric Bernier	-----

QUALIFICATION RACE 2

1) Simon Charbonneau	
2) Nicolas Barrette	
3) Valérie Limoges	
4) Alexandre Fortin	
5) Samuel Rowe	
6) Stefan Gauthier	
7) Frédéric Chaput	
8) Daniel Fortin	
9) André Lapointe	
10) Mathieu Miron	
11) Nicolas Miron	
12) Sylvain Ouellet	
13) Luc Richard	
14) Vincent Lalande	
15) Jean Audet	
16) Paul Dargis	
17) Christian Thibault	
18) Marie-Soleil Labelle	
19) Benoît Gagnon	
20) Frédéric Bernier	
21) Charles-Étienne Boucher	
22) Sean Scully	
23) Nicolas Lévesque	
24) Raphaël St-Pierre	
25) Jean-François Couture	
26) Simon Vincent	
27) Gilbert Christini	
28) Jonathan Couture	
29) Max Poirier	

Complexe Autoplus
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Canadian Tire
191 Motorsport
191 Motorsport
Ouellet Motorsport
Richard Motorsport
Équipe Vincent Lalande
Grand Times Hôtel
Dargis Motorsport
Équipe Christian Thibault
Musée Gilles-Villeneuve
Ouellet Motorsport
Hi-Fi Racing
Charlo Motorsport / PB Soft
Dragon Racing Team
Lévesque Motorsport
Sensei Groupe-Conseil
Céramique O-Nivo
Vincent2 racing team
Révi Motorsport
Céramique O-Nivo
Unicorn Motorsport

RESULTS RACE 2

1) Alexandre Fortin	25 laps
2) Valérie Limoges	-2.431
3) Nicolas Barrette	-5.811
4) Samuel Rowe	-6.969
5) Daniel Fortin	-14.190
6) Stefan Gauthier	-15.030
7) Mathieu Miron	-16.834
8) Simon Charbonneau	-23.933
9) Nicolas Miron	-24.679
10) Frédéric Chaput	-25.188
11) André Lapointe	-26.397
12) Vincent Lalande	-26.680
13) Benoît Gagnon	-45.881
14) Paul Dargis	-46.425
15) Simon Vincent	-1:22.460
16) Raphaël St-Pierre	-1:23.358
17) Charles-Étienne Boucher	-1 lap
18) Nicolas Lévesque	-1 lap
19) Sean Scully	-1 lap
20) Gilbert Christini	-1 lap
21) Jonathan Couture	-1 lap
22) Jean Audet	-20 laps
23) Marie-Soleil Labelle	-24 laps
24) Frédéric Bernier	-25 laps
25) Jean-François Couture	-25 laps
26) Christian Thibault	Did not start
27) Luc Richard	Did not start
28) Sylvain Ouellet	Did not start
Excluded) Max Poirier	-----



OVERALL STANDINGS

Position	#	Driver	Class	Races	Points
1.	88	Simon Charbonneau		6	275
2.	32	Alexandre Fortin		6	258
3.	427	Nicolas Barrette		6	221
4.	1	Valérie Limoges		6	192
5.	23	Samuel Rowe		6	150
6.	91	Simon Vincent		6*	148
7.	95	Daniel Fortin		5	133
8.	191	Mathieu Miron		5	129
9.	13	Vincent Lalande		6	120
9.	99	Sylvain Ouellet		4	120
11.	50	Nicolas Lévesque	M	6	116
12.	192	Nicolas Miron		4	114
13.	46	Christian Thibault		5	105
14.	27	Marie-Soleil Labelle		6	103
15.	89	Charles-Étienne Boucher	M	6	99
16.	12	André Lapointe		4	98
17.	22	Jean Audet		6	95
18.	20	Benoît Gagnon		4	88
19.	428	Sean Scully	M	5	76
20.	425	Max Poirier	M	6	74
21.	7	Jean-François Couture	M	6	72
22.	96	Stefan Gauthier		2	64
23.	419	Raphaël St-Pierre	M	4	62
24.	53	Paul Dargis		2	43
25.	63	Frédéric Chaput		2	28
26.	21	Jonathan Couture	M	2	24
27.	131	Gilbert Christini	M	2	23
28.	28	Frédéric Bernier	M	2	11
29.	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).



NEXT EVENT

The next event will take place on August 26th. It will be a return to the Complexe ICAR in Mirabel. After the Nissan Grand Prix and its packed grandstands last July, this time it will be another event for the general public, notably featuring the Canadian NASCAR series and the Nissan Sentra Cup. Two new races will be on the program for the day.

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