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# SENTRA CUP MAGAZINE



Grand Prix Nissan  
Complexe ICAR - Mirabel  
**JULY 6, 7, 2024**

**EVENT 2**



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Summary





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## Valérie Limoges secures a double victory in the Nissan Sentra Cup during the second edition of the Grand Prix Nissan

Beautiful weather, packed grandstands, multiple activities and two exciting races marked the Grand Prix Nissan, presented at Complexe ICAR

The second edition of the Grand Prix Nissan took place this past Sunday at Complexe ICAR in Mirabel, in front of a large audience who were able to witness two spectacular Nissan Sentra Cup races, in addition to a multitude of activities presented on site – all of which were part of this free event. On



the track, 2022 champion, Valérie Limoges won her first victory of the season during the morning race, followed by another win in the afternoon.



Qualifying in pole position, Limoges made a perfect start in race 1, battling Simon Vincent throughout the forty minutes of the race. The battle for third place was just as spectacular, ultimately going to Nicolas Barrette ahead of Frédéric Chaput, Alexandre Fortin, Nicolas Miron, Sylvain Ouellet, Mathieu Miron, Jean-François Couture and Jean Audet.

In front of several thousand spectators, the second qualification race gave rise to a historic first for the Nissan Sentra Cup: two drivers set the fastest time, tied at the thousandth of a second! A phenomenon worthy of Formula 1. Daniel Fortin and Valérie Limoges were both credited with the same time, with the advantage of pole position ultimately going to Fortin, who sets the time in first. Third, Nicolas Barrette conceded fourteen thousandths of a second on the record time of his rivals, confirming how ultra-competitive the series is. This suggests a 2024 season that is perhaps more uncertain and exciting than ever.







In the race, under blue skies and warm temperatures, Valérie Limoges surprised Daniel Fortin from the second turn and was able to take a lead of a few seconds to race towards the victory. Alexandre Fortin, also off to an excellent start, quickly secured second position, ahead of a group of drivers battling throughout the 40 minutes of the event. Nicolas Miron finally finished third, ahead of Nicolas Barrette and Nicolas Lévesque, author of a promising first Top 5 in the series. He was ahead of Simon Vincent and Daniel Fortin, who suffered a flat tire on the last lap. Mathieu Miron, Christian Thibault

and Jean Audet completed the order of the top ten. Out of four races held this season, there were three different winners, with Valérie Limoges being the first double winner of 2024.

For the general public as well as guests of the Nissan brand, road tests (with Sentra, Rogue, Pathfinder, Ariya, Murano and Frontier models), autograph sessions, Hot Laps with the exceptional 100% electric LEAF Nismo RC, and more, were offered free of charge throughout the day, which was a great success both on a sporting and festive level.




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# GP Nissan news

## NEW WRAPPING FOR THE LEAF NISMO RC

Fans of the series were surprised to discover the fabulous 100% electric LEAF Nismo RC, with a brand new wrapping inspired by Nissan Formula E Open Wheel and adorned with the brand's favourite number, 23. This car, used as a Safety Car in the past and for track initiations with guests during the Grand Prix Nissan, arrived straight from the American West Coast, where it had been presented

to the public at the Portland E-Prix (Oregon) as part of a Formula E World Championship event. Actress and Nissan brand ambassador in the United States Brie Larson was passenger in the car on this occasion.



## A CHILD'S EXCEPTIONAL TALENT REWARDED

"We were looking at all the cars in the series and we wanted to have something that stood out," says Stéphane Pouliot, a rookie driver in the Nissan Sentra Cup. "I brought my son Raphael and



asked him if we could create this unique design. Inspired by videos on the internet, we tried a new paint pen that allowed us to reproduce a manga-style comic strip effect. The paint applied well to the car but it took us a long time to do the whole design," he adds. More than 12 hours of work was needed, carried out by Raphael, 13, and his father. "He's always wanted to draw on a car so this is the best of both worlds. Travis Pastrana saw the video of our #210 car and he responded to us on video congratulating us and saying he would love to come see us at the races! It's a hand-decorated car, it's unique" concludes Stéphane Pouliot.



## CROSSED EXPERIENCE FOR TWO CHAMPIONS

Champion in 2022, Valérie Limoges is the only driver to have taken part in all 10 seasons of the series, beginning in the Micra before winning in the Sentra. During the Grand Prix Nissan, she recalled her experience in the Micra Cup to the driver who succeeded her on the series' list of winners, 2023 champion Alexandre Fortin. The latter had never driven a Micra, which he test drove on the track with Valérie as a passenger. Limoges then occupied the right seat of a racing Sentra with Fortin at the wheel. The experience was filmed and will be available on the series' Facebook page in the coming weeks.



## LESS THAN A SECOND BETWEEN THE FIRST 13!

For many fans, one of the most exciting parts of the Nissan Sentra Cup are the on-track battles and the very small gaps between drivers, all of whom are racing in almost stock Nissan Sentras. At Complexe ICAR, the statistics once again confirmed the driver's talent, as the first 13 qualifiers at the start of the second race had achieved their best lap within the same second (913 thousandths). In race 1, only 78 hundredths of a second separated the lap record set by Valérie Limoges from the second best time set by Simon Vincent.



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# Postcard from the Grand Prix Nissan

New design for the Nissan LEAF Nismo RC prototype but still the same enthusiasm for this exceptional prototype. At the wheel at ICAR, Éric Côté, driver and team owner, offered exceptional track initiations to the luckiest guests!



The actor and humorist Michel Barrette was present at the Grand Prix Nissan. Former and excellent Series driver during the Nissan Micra Cup era, he was there to support his son Nicolas who is competing for the title this season. He also had the privilege of a few hot laps in the LEAF Nismo RC.







Dozens of Nissan vehicle test drives were offered to thousands of spectators who came to attend this second edition of the Grand Prix Nissan. Mixing motorsport and brand activations appeals to Nissan fans and the general public alike.

Free entry for all, lunch for Nissan guests, multiple activities on site. The Grand Prix Nissan also, for the second year in a row, attracted great weather to the delight of those who filled the grandstands at Complexe ICAR.





Autograph session for Nissan Sentra Cup drivers. The crowd was there. For the youngest, it was also an opportunity for a picture or selfie with their idols. Among the most popular drivers was Valérie Limoges. The 2022 champion also delighted her large audience on the track with two victories!



The Nissan Z club of Quebec was in the spotlight on Sunday. Its parade on the track between both races allowed spectators to admire recent models but also classic cars such as the Nissan 240Z and 280Z. Between visions of the future (with the LEAF Nismo RC), the present (road tests and the Nissan Sentra Cup) and the past (historic cars in the parade), there was something for everyone!





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# The GT Academy drivers who enlivened the series...



The Nissan GT Academy in the race in 2015, in the Nissan Micra Cup.

The year 2015 was not only the first for Nissan Micra Cup series. It was also marked by the arrival of international drivers from the Nissan GT Academy, made famous by the movie of the same name in 2023. The GT Academy was particularly well represented during the first seasons of the series.



The Nissan PlayStation GT Academy was a program funded by Nissan and Sony Interactive Entertainment from 2008 to 2016. This program consisted of selecting the best Gran Turismo gamers and offering them the opportunity to start a career as a real professional driver with Nissan.

In 2015, the Thai driver Thanaroj Tanasitnitikate, whom all fans quickly nicknamed "Mr. T", and Abhinay Bikkani, from India, competed in the series, with several victories and the runner-up title for Tanasitnitikate. The following year, it was the American Nic Hamman who entered in the Nissan Micra Cup as a representative of the GT Academy.



Thanaroj Tanasitnitikate, the first ever winner in the Series, in 2015.

Finally, in 2017, the young Keishi Ayukai, who was one of the finalists of the "GT Academy International Race Camp" in Australia, crossed the planet to find himself at the controls of a small Micra from the series. The Nissan Micra Cup was also the only program in the world to have been linked to the GT Academy, apart from the official NISMO programs, of course.

May 23, 2015, Circuit Mont-Tremblant. "Mr. T" crosses the finish line as winner of the very first race in the history of the Nissan Micra Cup. He would do it again the next day before experiencing more difficult races and finally conceding the title to Olivier Bédard at the end of the season. As for Abhinay Bikkani, he would also experience success at Mont-Tremblant, this time in July, with two consecutive wins. The Bengaluru driver finished 4<sup>th</sup> in the standings.



The following year, Nic Hamman witnessed the rivalry between Bédard, Xavier Coupal and Kevin King. Three drivers with extreme ambitions, knowing the tracks and their car perfectly. Coupal won the title and the Wisconsin native closed his season with two pole positions and a few Top 5s. The crazy schedule of the 2016 season, with 16 races on the calendar, had also limited the ambitions of Nic, who was only able to compete in 12 rounds and finished Top 6 in the championship final standings.

In 2017, the arrival of Keishi Ayukai was another great story in the series. Born in Japan and arriving from Brisbane with the budget to compete only in three races, the 30-year-old driver attracted the attention of numerous media who did not hesitate to get involved to allow him to complete the year in Canada. "I didn't have enough money to continue racing in Australia, so Gareth Evans (NISMO marketing communications manager) told me to seriously consider the Nissan Micra Cup," explains Ayukai, who adds: "after discussed with the series promoter Jacques Deshaies, I saw that the series would allow me to race and live part of the year in Canada with only \$30,000. I jumped on a plane and arrived."

A few days later, the Australian had acquired a used car on the advice of Jacques Deshaies and he competed in his first races. "The challenge was to learn the tracks and become familiar with a highly competitive field," admits the man who finished on the podium for his debut at Canadian Tire Motorsport Park in May 2017. By mid-season, Keishi had obtained five Top 6 finishes in 6 races. Impressive. But the round trips between Canada and Australia had exhausted his budget and the solidarity of the automotive and motorsport world then came into action: accommodation with one, a fundraising campaign initiated by a journalist and financial help from another... Keishi could finish his season. A few difficult races caused him to be demoted in the championship standings, which he concluded in 9<sup>th</sup> position.

Tanasitnitikate, Bikkani, Hamman, Ayukai, four names that have marked the history of the series. Four drivers who won pole positions and victories and made the Nissan Cup shine around the world. For a national series with almost production cars and requiring budgets a hundred times lower than Formula 1 or World Endurance, this is further proof of its incredible success over time...



Nic Hamman, American driver from the GT Academy who competed the 2016 season.



Keishi Ayukai, from Australia to the Nissan Micra Cup in 2017!





# Results and standings

## ■ Grand Prix Nissan - Event 2

### QUALIFICATION RACE 1

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

### RESULTS RACE 1

1) Valérie Limoges	31 laps
2) Simon Vincent	-0.710
3) Nicolas Barrette	-15.728
4) Frédérick Chaput	-19.357
5) Alexandre Fortin	-20.477
6) Nicolas Miron	-25.699
7) Sylvain Ouellet	-36.697
8) Mathieu Miron	-41.837
9) Jean-François Couture	-43.282
10) Jean Audet	-44.115
11) Éric Chaput	-45.023
12) Raphaël St-Pierre	-46.404
13) Stéphane Pouliot	-1 lap
14) Christian Thibault	-1 lap
15) Marie-Soleil Labelle	-1 lap
16) Steve Poulin	-1 lap
17) Martin Harvey	-1 lap
18) Nicolas Lévesque	-13 laps
19) Daniel Fortin	-19 laps

### QUALIFICATION RACE 2

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

### RESULTS RACE 2

1) Valérie Limoges	31 laps
2) Alexandre Fortin	-2.226
3) Nicolas Miron	-4.329
4) Nicolas Barrette	-6.791
5) Nicolas Lévesque	-29.299
6) Simon Vincent	-30.154
7) Daniel Fortin	-36.773
8) Mathieu Miron	Penalty
9) Christian Thibault	-42.830
10) Jean Audet	-44.271
11) Raphaël St-Pierre	-46.840
12) Éric Chaput	-1:08.440
13) Stéphane Pouliot	-1 lap
14) Steve Poulin	-1 lap
15) Marie-Soleil Labelle	-1 lap
16) Sylvain Ouellet	-1 lap
17) Martin Harvey	-1 lap
18) Jean-François Couture	-18 laps
19) Frédérick Chaput	-30 laps



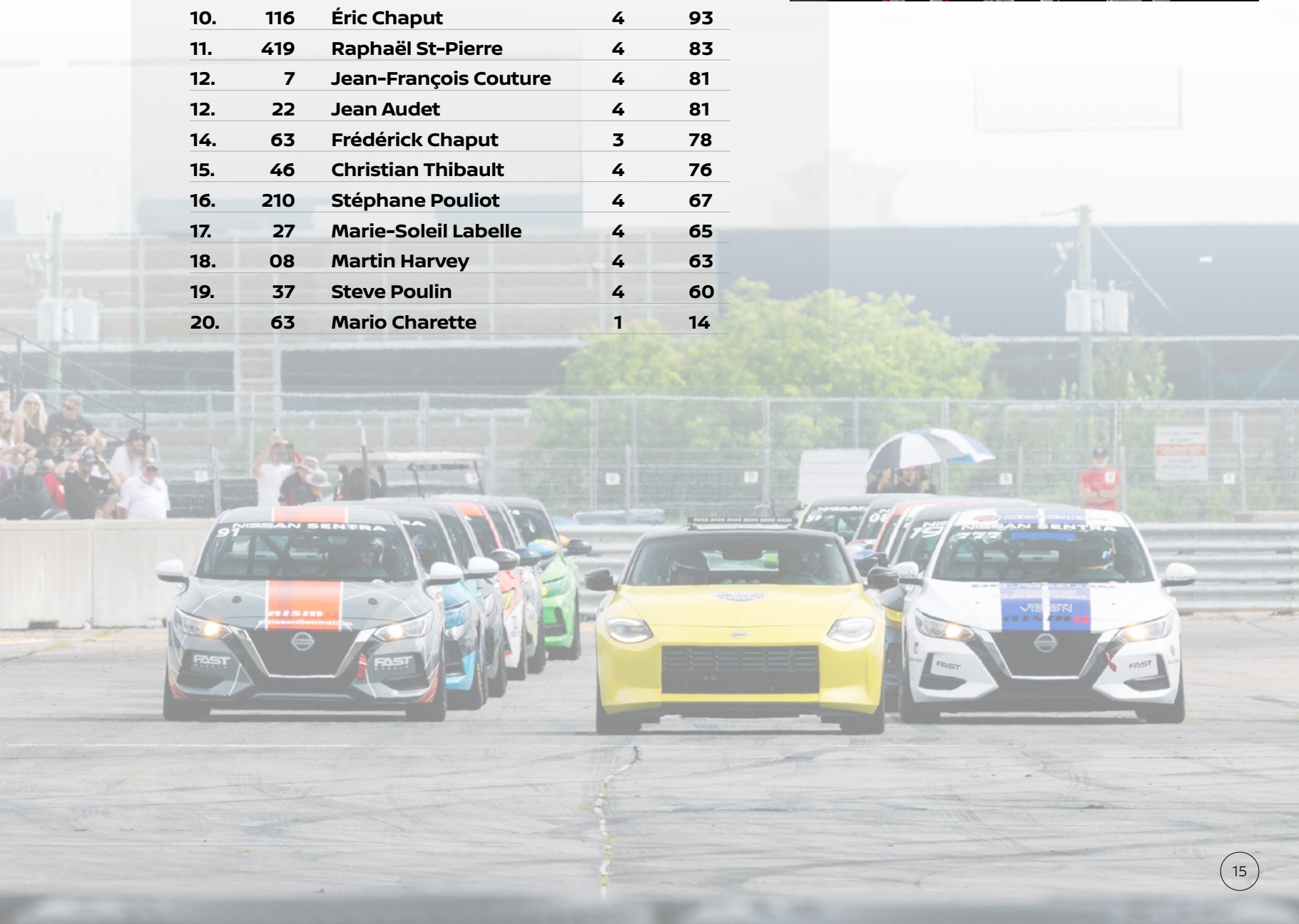


# Results and standings

■ Grand Prix Nissan - Event 2

## CHAMPIONSHIP STANDINGS

Position	#	Driver	Races	Points
1.	777	Valérie Limoges	4	171
2.	427	Nicolas Barrette	4	164
3.	1	Alexandre Fortin	4	150
4.	91	Simon Vincent	4	144
5.	192	Nicolas Miron	4	134
6.	95	Daniel Fortin	4	126
7.	191	Mathieu Miron	4	102
8.	50	Nicolas Lévesque	4	101
9.	99	Sylvain Ouellet	4	99
10.	116	Éric Chaput	4	93
11.	419	Raphaël St-Pierre	4	83
12.	7	Jean-François Couture	4	81
12.	22	Jean Audet	4	81
14.	63	Frédéric Chaput	3	78
15.	46	Christian Thibault	4	76
16.	210	Stéphane Pouliot	4	67
17.	27	Marie-Soleil Labelle	4	65
18.	08	Martin Harvey	4	63
19.	37	Steve Poulin	4	60
20.	63	Mario Charette	1	14







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The next event will take place July 19-20 at Lime Rock Park in Connecticut.  
This will be the very first time that the Nissan Sentra Cup presents an event in the United States.  
The series therefore becomes a truly international series.



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