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SENTRA CUP MAGAZINE



EVENT 3

Grand Prix Nissan
Complexe ICAR - Mirabel, QC
JULY 6, 2025



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Summary



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Nicolas Barrette and Valérie Limoges Deliver Thrilling Wins during Nissan Sentra Cup Races at the Nissan Grand Prix

Two spectacular races, winners separated by mere thousandths of a second, and a full lineup of activities for the public

The third edition of the Nissan Grand Prix, held this Sunday at Complexe ICAR in Mirabel, marked the mid-point of the 2025 Nissan Sentra Cup season. Two races were on the schedule, including many other activities offered to Nissan fans, and they were highlighted by victories from Nicolas Barrette and Valérie Limoges.

After two free practice sessions in the morning, both dominated by Valérie Limoges, the two-time series champion continued her strong performance in qualifying, taking pole position for both races ahead of Nicolas Barrette and Simon Vincent.



In front of packed grandstands, the first race of the afternoon delivered 40 minutes of non-stop action. Limoges and Barrette remained within eight-tenths of a second of each other throughout, setting the stage for a dramatic finish. On the final lap, just three corners from the checkered flag, Nicolas Barrette launched a decisive move to take the lead. Valérie Limoges fought back fiercely, and the two raced side-by-side through the final turns. In the end, Barrette edged out the win by less than a car length — a mere 18 thousandths of a second. The crowd responded with a long, enthusiastic round of applause for the two drivers who had delivered such a thrilling battle.

Threatened by Éric Chaput right up to the final laps, Simon Vincent completed the podium. Chaput, making his season debut, finished fourth ahead

of Raphaël St-Pierre, Steve Poulin, Marc-Antoine D'Amour, and Mathieu Lemyre. François Bourassa and Stéphane Pouliot rounded out the Top 10.

Just over an hour later, the drivers returned to the track for a second race, which promised to be grueling due to the heat and humidity, demanding peak concentration and physical fitness for another 40 minutes of action. Starting from pole once again, Valérie Limoges made a perfect getaway, while Simon Vincent tried to overtake Nicolas Barrette for second place. Barrette quickly began losing positions due to technical issues and ultimately finished twelfth.



At the end of 40 incident-free minutes, Valérie Limoges secured her second win of the season, with Simon Vincent finishing second, further strengthening his lead in the championship. Raphaël St-Pierre claimed the third step on the podium — his first of the season — after overtaking Sylvain Ouellet halfway through the race. Ouellet finished fourth, ahead of Nicolas Lévesque and Steve Poulin, who had a thrilling battle with Marc-Antoine D'Amour. Mathieu Lemyre, Stéphane Pouliot, and François Bourassa completed the Top 10.



For more information on the Nissan Sentra Cup, visit sentracup.com and follow the series on social media. To relive the 2024 season races in video, visit the [Nissan Sentra Cup YouTube page](#).



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Nissan Grand Prix POSTCARD

In addition to the two thrilling Nissan Sentra Cup races, the third edition of the Nissan Grand Prix treated spectators to free admission and the opportunity to test drive a range of new Nissan models, including the ARIYA, Armada, Kicks, Kicks Play, Rogue, and of course, the Sentra. Some lucky attendees even experienced hot laps with professional drivers in the fully electric LEAF NISMO RC and the high-performance Nissan Z Nismo. The all-new 2026 Nissan LEAF, recently unveiled, was also showcased for the first time in Canada.






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NEWS BRIEFS from Nissan Grand Prix



STRONG RETURN FOR ÉRIC CHAPUT AND SYLVAIN OUELLET

Sharing car No. 116 (Éric Chaput's lucky number), Sylvain Ouellet's team made its return to competition at this event held at the Complexe ICAR. Chaput and Ouellet each compete for one race behind the wheel and both delivered an impressive 4th place finish. A successful comeback indeed, ahead of another return: Frédéric Chaput (Éric's son) will be back at next month's Grand Prix de Trois-Rivières. For the occasion, Sentra #116 will be completely redecorated. Frédéric Chaput won the final race of the 2024 season before taking a break from motorsports competition.

TWO RECORDS AT ICAR!

Despite sweltering heat and a constant threat of rain (only a very small rain fell during the second race), this third edition of the Nissan Grand Prix attracted several thousand fans. Statistically, the event marked two firsts on the track: for the first time, the same driver did not win both races of the event (Simon Charbonneau had won both in 2023, and Valérie Limoges in 2024), while the 0.018-second gap between Nicolas Barrette and Valérie Limoges was the closest finish ever recorded in a Sentra race.

FIRST RACE FOR PIERRE-OLIVIER PAQUETTE!

One of the appealing aspects of the Nissan Sentra Cup is its ability, since its inception, to attract rookie drivers, not just karting graduates but also motorsport enthusiasts looking to experience the thrill of racing in an affordable, near-stock series.



Pierre-Olivier Paquette is the most recent example. He made his debut at the Nissan Grand Prix: "I work as a sales representative in everyday life, and I've also been working at ICAR for a few years as a Supercar driving instructor. I've loved motorsports since I was a kid, especially NASCAR races. But I know they're financially out of reach for a beginner, unlike the Sentra Cup, which is the perfect series to break into the sport. It's professional and competitive, yet still accessible to drivers with small budgets. That was part of what influenced my decision."

Since 2022, Paquette has held a racing license. Starting a series mid-season isn't easy, but Pierre-Olivier at least had the advantage of knowing the track very well when he debuted at the 2025 Nissan Grand Prix: "It was a dream come true when I took the start of the first race, at 38 years old!"

"I had been following the series since the Micra days, and during the 2024 Nissan Grand Prix, I worked as a trackside marshal. That's when I truly experienced the event from the inside, and it all clicked," adds Pierre-Olivier, who is far from done: "I'm finishing the 2025 season! I'll be racing at the Grand Prix de Trois-Rivières and at the big finale at Canadian Tire Motorsport Park." Pierre-Olivier Paquette finished his first two races in 11th place.



Results and standings

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RACE 1

QUALIFICATION

- 1) Valérie Limoges
- 2) Nicolas Barrette
- 3) Simon Vincent
- 4) Éric Chaput
- 5) Raphaël St-Pierre
- 6) Nicolas Lévesque
- 7) Steve Poulin
- 8) Mathieu Lemyre
- 9) François Bourassa
- 10) Stéphane Pouliot
- 11) Marc-Antoine D'Amour
- 12) Sean Scully
- Excluded) Pierre-Olivier Paquette

RESULTS

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------|
| 1) Nicolas Barrette | 30 laps |
| 2) Valérie Limoges | -0.018 |
| 3) Simon Vincent | -4.518 |
| 4) Éric Chaput | -7.808 |
| 5) Raphaël St-Pierre | -14.804 |
| 6) Steve Poulin | -44.236 |
| 7) Marc-Antoine D'Amour | -1:05.979 |
| 8) Mathieu Lemyre | -1:07.172 |
| 9) François Bourassa | -1:08.005 |
| 10) Stéphane Pouliot | -1:20.718 |
| 11) Pierre-Olivier Paquette | -1 lap |
| 12) Nicolas Lévesque | -3 laps |
| 13) Sean Scully | Did not start |

RACE 2

QUALIFICATION

- 1) Valérie Limoges
- 2) Nicolas Barrette
- 3) Simon Vincent
- 4) Sylvain Ouellet
- 5) Raphaël St-Pierre
- 6) Nicolas Lévesque
- 7) Marc-Antoine D'Amour
- 8) Steve Poulin
- 9) François Bourassa
- 10) Mathieu Lemyre
- 11) Stéphane Pouliot
- 12) Pierre-Olivier Paquette
- Did not start) Sean Scully

RESULTS

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------|
| 1) Valérie Limoges | 30 laps |
| 2) Simon Vincent | -5.639 |
| 3) Raphaël St-Pierre | -11.755 |
| 4) Sylvain Ouellet | -14.862 |
| 5) Nicolas Lévesque | -18.420 |
| 6) Steve Poulin | -48.119 |
| 7) Marc-Antoine D'Amour | -52.695 |
| 8) Mathieu Lemyre | -56.385 |
| 9) Stéphane Pouliot | -1:03.540 |
| 10) François Bourassa | -1:03.976 |
| 11) Pierre-Olivier Paquette | -1:08.742 |
| 12) Nicolas Barrette | -2 laps |
| 13) Sean Scully | Did not start |



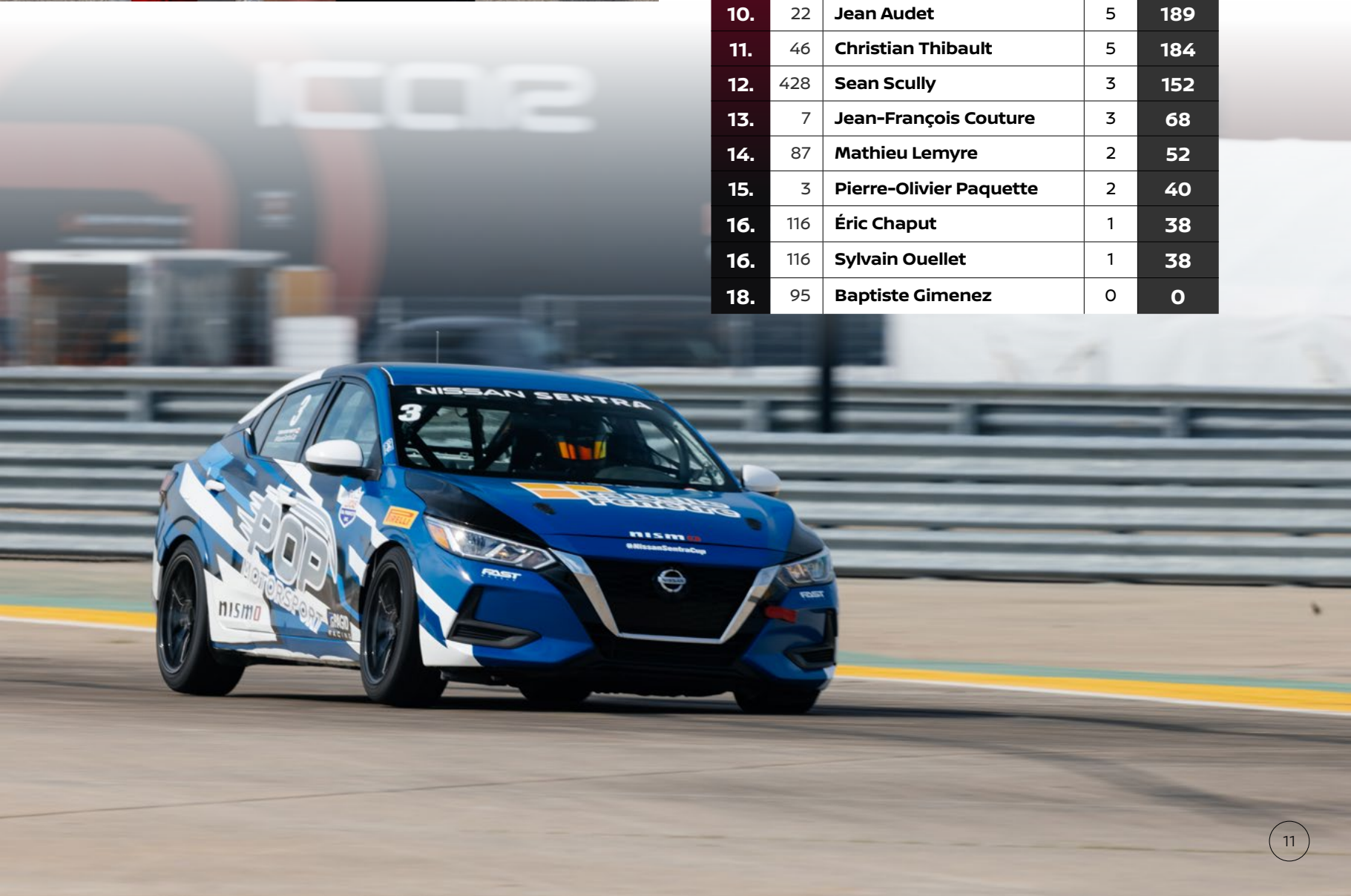


Results and standings

■ Complexe ICAR- Event 3



CHAMPIONSHIP STANDINGS				
Position	#	Driver	Races	Points
1.	91	Simon Vincent	7	484
2.	1	Valérie Limoges	7	430
3.	427	Nicolas Barrette	7	403
4.	50	Nicolas Lévesque	7	347
5.	113	Marc-Antoine D'Amour	7	344
6.	419	Raphaël St-Pierre	7	334
7.	37	Steve Poulin	7	252
8.	210	Stéphane Pouliot	7	234
9.	27	François Bourassa	7	220
10.	22	Jean Audet	5	189
11.	46	Christian Thibault	5	184
12.	428	Sean Scully	3	152
13.	7	Jean-François Couture	3	68
14.	87	Mathieu Lemyre	2	52
15.	3	Pierre-Olivier Paquette	2	40
16.	116	Éric Chaput	1	38
16.	116	Sylvain Ouellet	1	38
18.	95	Baptiste Gimenez	0	0





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The next event will take place on August 8, 9, and 10, with the Nissan Sentra Cup being one of the featured series of the 55th edition of the Grand Prix de Trois-Rivières. Established in 1967, this event is a longstanding tradition in Canadian motorsport. Two Nissan Sentra Cup races will be held... and new drivers will be joining the series for the occasion!



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