



## DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING

*Team Release*

### **Race Report**

#### **2021/4/4 Rd-1 FUJI Speedway**

Weather: cloudy Temperature: 17°C, 18cars

Audience: 7,800/3<sup>rd</sup> (Sat.) 11,300/4<sup>th</sup> (Sun.) 19,100 total

On Apr.4, the day of the 2021 season opener at Fuji Speedway, it became overcast and chilly in the afternoon, although the clear sky peeked out sometimes in the morning. A strong tail wind was blowing above Main Straight. Rain was forecasted around 3pm.

Both Sasahara in the 3rd grid and Fukuzumi in the 4th grid started from the second row. Fukuzumi made an excellent start and came on the side of the second car in First Corner. He could not overtake, just raised up one position to the 3rd. Sasahara finished the opening lap in 4th behind Sasahara.

They both gradually closed on the second driver, shortening their own best times. Fukuzumi got really close to Oyu in second on Lap21 and finally overtook him on Lap24 to become second.

Sasahara who were watching for an opportunity behind them also overtook Oyu on Lap25 to be 3rd. Then, it started raining.

To prevent Oyu who changed tires on Lap25 from preceding, Fukuzumi made a pit-stop at the end of Lap28 and Sasahara did on the next lap.

At this timing, the surface condition became officially 'wet'.

The both drivers succeeded to return to the course in front of Oyu after their tire change. However, the surface temperature fell due to the rain, and because it took time to warm up the tires, they dropped the positions.

In the latter half of the race, Fuzumi chased the leader at his best pace in spite of the wet surface, but in vain. He finished the opener in third, mounting the podium. On the other hand, Sasahara won the battle against Yamamoto and became 5th to get points.



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#5: Nirei Fukuzumi Position 3rd (3rd among Honda users)

This season, my team prepared the car with the ace number #5 for me, and I felt a lot of pressure. During the race, I had some trouble balancing the car, and the rain started at the wrong timing, so I couldn't keep the second position.

Later, I drove at a good pace. I am disappointed that I couldn't bring out my best all the more because I could see the leader ahead especially in the last few laps. I am glad I stood on the podium and got the points, so I will make good use of this result for the next race to aim for the higher.

#6: Ukyou Sasahara Position 5th (4th among Honda users)

I dropped one position at the start, but I was planning to keep my pace considering the climate and the tires until I had a chance to overtake.

I made a pit-stop when I overtook Oyu and became third, however, because of time loss during pit work and start of rain, I dropped my position again.

My car was in good balance during the race, so I could bring some points home in 5th place. I think my car and I did our best all through the weekend.