



## **Race Report**

**2021/4/25 Rd-2 SUZUKA Circuit**

Weather: Fine Temperature: 23°C, 19cars

Audience: 7,000/24th (Sat.) 9,500/25<sup>th</sup> (Sun.) 16,500 total

Rd2 of the 2021 season was just about to start under a clear sky with a strong tail wind blowing above Main Straight at Suzuka Circuit.

Fukuzumi made a steady start from the pole position and kept the lead.

Sasahara who started from the fifth grid in the third row had to change his line a lot to avoid the car ahead slowing down because of engine stall, and finished the opening lap in 4th.

Fukuzumi who extended his lead was the only one recording 1'40 seconds', and he dominated the race while Sasahara was awaiting a chance in the following group.

On Lap9, when Fukuzumi was driving smoothly for his first victory with more than 3 sec lead to them, suddenly had trouble with the right rear tire.

He managed to come back to the pits, however, the suspension was damaged and he retired from the race here.

Sasahara now in third made a pit stop on Lap11 to prevent Sekiguchi who changed his tires on Lap10 from preceding him.

Sasahara succeeded to keep the third position by the team's exceptional pit work.

On Lap16, an accident occurred and the safety car came in because of the car gone off the track. The race was restarted on Lap20, and thus it turned to be a 10-lap sprint race. Sasahara tried to catch Hirakawa in second using the overtake system, however in vain and finished in third. He climbed the podium of Super Formula for the first time.



## DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING

*Team Release*

#5: Nirei Fukuzumi Retired

This weekend, I was at the top in every section in QF, and in the race, even though I was a little nervous at the start, I could widen my lead from the beginning and could dominate the race watching the competitors' moves.

When I felt uneasy with the rear tire on Lap9, it all happened in a moment.

I was so frustrated that I had to retire from the race because of the damage in my car, but I could have confidence in myself and my car.

I will make it up in the rest of the races in the season.

#6: Ukyou Sasahara Position 3rd (2nd among Honda users)

At the start, a car stalled its engine in front of me, but I could cut my way to keep my position. However, far from quickening my pace, I just followed the others, even though I pushed very hard to raise my position.

Thanks to the strategy and the pit work, I could aim for second place in the latter half, but I ended up in third.

I am truly grateful for my team's support, because with this support, I drove through the race without regrets and finished in third on my first podium to bring points home.