



DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING

Team Release

Race Report

2021/5/16 Rd-3 AUTOPOLIS

Weather: Rain Temperature: 22°C, 19cars

Audience: 1,800/15th (Sat.) 2,830/16th (Sun.) 4,630 total

The rainy season has set in three weeks earlier than usual at Autopolis. Free Practice in the morning was canceled due to heavy rain, strong wind and thick fog. Thus, the warm-up run was extended to 20 min from originally 8 min.

Under the heavy-wet condition, Makino who was with DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING for the first time tried to drive enthusiastically, however, his car was carried off the track by the water flow on the surface in Corner 13 and the front part was damaged.

It caused a red flag to come out and the session was over.

In only 10 min, the team succeeded to repair Makino's car and placed it in the starting grid.

The race started 40 min behind the schedule because of the bad weather and a dense fog.

Makino got off to a hot start from the 8th grid and raised his position.

However, in order to dodge the crashed cars in Corner 1, he ran out into the gravel. Even though he had escaped a sideswipe accident, he fell to 15th.

On the other hand, Fukuzumi raised his position to 13th from the 18th grid.

The safety car came in because of this accident in Corner 1, and the race was restarted on Lap5.

Both drivers overtook one by one carefully. On Lap12, the race was interrupted by a red flag due to the torrential rainfall. After a-hour standby, at 16:30, the end of the race with this red flag was declared.

Fukuzumi in 11th at the moment was penalized with additional 5 sec for the sideswipe battle in the early stage, and became 13th.

Makino finished the rough race in 14th.



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#5: Nirei Fukuzumi Position 13th (7th among Honda users)

My starting was not bad and at the beginning, I raised my position gradually aiming for finishing with some points. However, it was a difficult race because the condition changed rapidly again and again. We realized what it was we lacked and what we should verify through the race under wet condition. We will utilize this results for the next race and win.

#6: Tadasuke Makino Position 14th (8th among Honda users)

I crashed in the warm-up run before the start, and I am grateful to my team for placing my car in the grid in such a short time. I made a good start, but I am frustrated that I dropped my position because I couldn't find space.

It was my first race with Dandelion Racing. Too bad that we had the bad weather and limited sessions to drive, and I couldn't leave a good result. Radically, my car's speed was not fast enough. I will examine data with my team and prepare for the next race at SUGO.