

DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING Team Release

Race Report 2021/10/31 Rd-7 SUZUKA circuit

Weather: rain/Cloudy Temperature: 17°C, 19cars
Audience: 6,000/30th (Sat.) 10,500/31th (Sun.) 16,500 total

The 2021 season in the coronavirus crisis continuing from last year was going to have the seventh and final race at Suzuka Circuit.

DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING in third place in the teams' standings placed Fuuzumi in the third grid and Makino in the fourth, both in the second row, and was completely ready for winning the title.

Fukuzumi made a calm start, however, let two cars pass him and became 5th. Makino drove the opening lap in 7th because of bad positioning at the start. In addition to the penalty on the leading car, Fukuzumi showed a bold overtake in Corner1 and raised his position to second on L5. At this point, Makino was fighting for the 4th position.

On L10 when pit stops were allowed, the team called Makino in 5th in. However, they made a regretful mistake during tire change and lost much time. Makino went on-track, dropping his position a lot.

On the next lap, Fukuzumi made a pit-stop to change tires. He showed excellent performance on the out-lap and led to the success of undercut operation. He also overtook his competitors on track.

He continued driving steadily to dominate the race and reached the goal first. His victory was worth making up for Rd 2 at Suzuka from which he retired because of a tire burst while leading the race. He became second in the 2021 drivers' championship.

Makino raised his position gradually, however, the sideswipe in Chicane during fighting for the 7th position was considered as a dangerous act, and got a penalty of additional 5 sec.

Although he pushed hard in places, he ended up in 10th.



DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING Team Release

#5: Nirei Fukuzumi Position 1st (2nd in 2021 Driver's Championship)

Under the influence of the coronavirus crisis, thanks to zealous efforts by JRP and the circuits, and thanks to support from fans, teams and cooperative corporations, we were able to hold all seven races.

I was confident in the set-up for the race and the team's strategy was excellent. I had some spare feelings to control spaces between my competitors and me while saving tires.

I had retired from the race at Suzuka and could not leave good results in the Motegi series. However, I am so glad that I could notch my second victory of this season in the last race at Suzuka.

It wasn't best because we are in second both in the drivers' and the teams' standings, though.

I will aim to become the champion, gaining strength and believing in myself.

#6: Tadasuke Makino Position 10th (9th in 2021 Drivers' Standings)

I made a good start but my positioning wasn't good, so I dropped my position. Still, I was at a good pace in the race, and my team's decision to change tires during a fight for 4th position was nice. Unfortunately, I lost time because of trouble during the tire change, and dropped more positions.

I pushed hard to recover. As a result, I got a penalty for the sideswipe in Chicane, but I could never draw back a moment in a race!

I was regretful because I couldn't contribute to the teams' championship finishing the race in 10th.

I couldn't attend the first half of the season because of poor health and it was a tough season for me. However, in the latter half of the season, the results were following race by race, and I finally stood on the podium in the last race at Motegi. I can say that I made progress everyday in my first season with DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING.

I appreciate my team for providing me the best environment, and sponsors and fans for support under COVID-19 influence. I will go into the next season with more skill.