



DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING

Team Release

Race Report

2022/4/9 Rd-1 FUJI Speedway

Weather: Fine Temperature: 23°C, 21cars

Audience: 10,300/9th (Sat.)

The first event of the 2022 Super Formula at Fuji Speedway consisted of Rd1 on Saturday and Rd2 on Sunday. The race followed the exciting QF so soon that it had left no time for relaxation.

In each race, refueling is not allowed and tire change is mandatory, just like last season.

When the season opener started, the air temperature was 23 degree C with the surface temperature over 30 degree C, and a strong tail wind was blowing above the main straight.

Sasahara in the pole position surprisingly stalled the engine, and a car slowed down in Dunlop Corner because of a sideswipe accident.

On this chaotic opening lap, Otsu who raised his position from 10th to 7th also scraped Sato's car at the rear in Dunlop Corner.

As a result, Sato span and Otsu got a drive-through penalty. Otsu dropped his position to 18th.

Makino raised one position to 6th, and as soon as pit-stop was allowed, he came in to change tires.

He drove, recording the fastest lap. Even though he succeeded under-cut to the car ahead, he had to save his tires in the latter half and finished in 6th with 5 points.

Otsu raised his position from 18th to 16th before finishing the race.

#5: Tadasuke Makino Position 6th (2nd among Honda users)

In spite of a little tangling, I managed to raise one position at the start. Pit-stop timing and the strategy was good, and after changing tires, I controlled my pace watching Nojiri's movement in front of me. However, while he outdistanced me gradually, my tires were getting worn down, and I had to focus on keeping the 6th position. I will have another QF and race tomorrow. So, I will examine today's result and make up for it tomorrow.



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#6: Hiroki Otsu Position 16th (7th among Honda users)

I made a good start and raised my position to 7th while competing with Makino. Because of the jam in 100R, my pace slowed and I collided with Sato in front of me for a drive-through penalty. I tried to quicken my pace after changing tires, but the rear tires were wearing so fast that I lost time in Sec 3. I ended up in 16th. I will discuss with my team on the balance problem in Sec 3 for tomorrow, and will change my focus in a positive way.