



DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING

Team Release

Race Report

2022/4/24 Rd-3 SUZUKA circuit

Weather: Rain Temperature: 17°C, 21cars

Audience: 6,000/23rd (Sat.) 10,000/24th (Sun) 16,000 total

It was raining on the Rd3 race day at Suzuka Circuit. The condition was completely different from QF yesterday, with the temperature of 17 degree C at the start.

Makino made a good start passing two cars and went into 1st Corner in third.

On the other hand, Otsu, who got off to a hot start, did not get sufficient acceleration because of too much wheel spin, and dropped three positions down.

Makino was in 3rd and Otsu was in 10th at the end of the opening lap.

Makino closed the gap between himself and the second driver every lap, and finally in "Gyaku" Bank Corner on L7, overtook him. Then, Makino gradually gained on the leader while getting pressure from Matsushita in third.

This deadlock situation continued to the final stage of the race.

The rain had eased by the last 10 laps. Makino took Nojiri in range, competing with Matsushita intensely. However, Makino was overtaken by Matsushita in Chicane with 5 laps remaining. He chased Matsushita through the end, but in vain. He finished the race in 3rd on the podium.

Otsu raised one position on L10, and watched for a chance in the group fighting for 7th place, managing tire abrasion. He raised his position to the 8th by the last 10 laps and pushed hard aiming higher. After all, he ended up in 8th and earned 8 points.

#5: Tadasuke Makino Position 3rd (3rd among Honda users)

I made a very good start and raised my position to 3rd. I was instructed by my team to save the tires because the rainfall was dropping, so I closed the gap between the leader and me managing tire abrasion for the battle in the latter half. All three of us in the top group were having trouble with abraded tires, and I had to fight Matsushita in this difficult situation. I have no regret that I kept pushing while fighting clean. However, honestly, I am a little disappointed with the result. Third place is not bad considering the season totally, though. Autopolis and Sugo, my favorite circuits, are coming in a row. I will keep making progress in each circuit.



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#6: Hiroki Otsu Position 8th (4th among Honda users)

I failed at the start and it affected the whole race.

In the early stage, the water-shield blocked the view, but after the middle stage, I kept a good pace and overtook several cars.

I am glad that I managed to get some points.

The issue which I have to work on urgently is to improve my performance in QF. For Autopolis, which is my team's favorite circuit, I will examine Makino's and the past data, too, and will make up for the last three races.