



## DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING

Team Release

### Race Report

**2022/5/22 Rd-4 AUTOPOLIS**

Weather: Fine Temperature: 24°C, 21cars

Audience: 3,400/21<sup>ST</sup> (Sat.) 5,100/22<sup>ND</sup> (Sun) 8,500 total

The weather favored Rd4 at Autopolis with the air temperature 24 degree C and the surface temperature 44 degree C when the race started.

However, the strong wind was blowing cold, and the sensory temperature dropped when the clouds hid the sun.

Makino in the third grid in the second row and Otsu in the tenth grid enhanced concentration for a start. As planned, Makino raised his position to second before Turn 1. Otsu did not make a good start and dropped to 12th.

In Turn 3 on the opening lap, a car went out of the track and caused the safety car to come in.

The race was restarted after L3.

On L5, Makino was overtaken by Hirakawa and became third. On the same lap, a safety car situation occurred again and the race was restarted, again, on L9.

After L10, when tire change was allowed, the team called Makino into the pits to change tires. On the next L11, Otsu changed his tires and returned on-track, raising one position up.

At this point, Makino was in 2nd among the drivers who had finished tire-change and Otsu was in 4th. They were pushing hard to widen the margin to the drivers who had not changed tires yet.

However, while the group with stay-out strategy drove in the first half of 1'30 seconds per lap, Makino drove in between the second half of 1'30 seconds and 1'31 seconds. Otsu also could not quicken his pace.

They both managed to maintain their positions in the group, and Makino finished in 6th and Otsu did in 9th. They brought points home.



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#5: Tadasuke Makino Position 6th (3rd among Honda users)

I made a good start and raised my position to second.

I responded well to the safety car situation and my strategy was working, so I was trying to raise my position again in a clear view.

However, I could not match the top group in pace, and consequently, I couldn't compete for victory.

I showed good performance in QF, my car and strategy were good, and yet my race pace was far behind. We will examine both good and inadequate points for the next race.

#6: Hiroki Otsu Position 9th (5th among Honda users)

My mistake at the start affected the race to the end.

I raised my position by pit work and on track, too, but I couldn't catch up with the cars ahead in the tough race.

I am frustrated that I couldn't maximize the car's performance because of the mistakes in QF and at the start. I will look back on the previous races and pursue quickness and strength with my team for the middle stage of the season.