



Race Report

2023/4/23 Rd-3 SUZUKA circuit

Weather: Fine Temperature: 21°C, 22cars

Audience: 9,500/22nd(Sat.) 16,000/23rd(Sun) TOTAL 25,500

Rd3 of 2023 season was held at Suzuka Circuit under a clear sky.

Unlike yesterday, the strong wind ceased and it was a perfect day for race watching.

In Free Practice in the morning, which was a very important opportunity to check and adjust the cars lastly before the race, Makino could drive for only 5 laps because of gearbox trouble.

The team repaired it before the race started so that Makino could finish the 8-min warm-up run.

However, when he was just about to place his car in the fifth grid, gearbox system trouble had broken out and the engine stopped. This caused a delay of the race, and it became a 30-lap race, adding a formation lap.

Makino made a pit start and returned on-track at the tail end.

On the other hand, Ota overtook several cars at the start to be 18th on the opening lap.

When the pit-stop window opened on L10, the team called Ota into the pits for tire change, aiming undercut. He quickened his pace to raise the position.

Makino patiently waited for a chance on the track, however, his pace began to slow after L15. He had to make a pit-stop on L19, and after changing tires, he returned on-track in 17th.

On L20, the safety car came in. When the race was restarted on L23, both Makino and Ota fought with the competitors at close quarters for 8 laps remained.

Makino finished the race in 15th, and Ota did in 17th.



DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING

Team Release

#5: Tadasuke Makino Position 15th

I had gearbox trouble during Free Practice in the morning, and I couldn't check nor adjust the set-up. So, I felt a little uneasy about the race.

It was fixed, but system trouble came out when I was heading to the grid. Fortunately, I could start from the pits, and had a good feeling about my car at a good pace in the early stages.

However, in the middle stage, I realized a lot of issues.

Since we had prepared my car with a new concept this time, it was meaningful that I survived the race to collect data for the future.

#6: Kakunoshin Ota Position 17th

In QF, I got a record removal penalty for track limit violation, and also a 3-position reduce penalty for blocking, so I started from the very end.

I overtook three cars at the start, and changed tires earliest for undercut.

My pace was good and I secured a margin, but the safety car situation on L20 spoiled everything.

Although both my car and myself are improving, we cannot get satisfactory results in QF yet. We just have to keep refining and advancing.