



Qualifying Report

2023/5/20 Rd-4 Autopolis

Weather : Fine Temperature : 22°C 22cars

Because of the drizzling rain yesterday, Free Practice in the morning at Autopolis, the only international circuit in Kyushu, took place under wet conditions.

However, the weather recovered quickly and by the time QF started, it became a perfect day for race watching with 22°C of air temperature and 43°C of surface temperature.

Makino in GrpA went on-track with used tires for course check as soon as the track opened.

As a result of the check run, he figured that the second measuring lap after a warm-up run would be best for an attack.

He went for it with new tires in the last 5 min. Although he recorded a good time in Sec 1 and 2, he could not shorten his time in Sec 3. He moved on to QF2 in 3rd.

Ota in GrpB went for an attack in his second measuring lap, like Makino did. However, because of a car which went off-track, the red flag interruption occurred when he was attacking in Sec2.

QF restarted with 3 min remaining after the course was cleared.

Ota pushed hard while managing tire abrasion carefully.

He lost his balance in Hairpin Corner in Sec3, and finished QF in 10th.

Makino adjusted the set-up for QF2 and went on-track to attack in his second measuring lap, as he did in QF1, with 5 min remaining.

He recorded the best time in Sec1, and shortened his time in Sec2, however, again, did not do well in Sec3. He ended up in 7th.



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#5: Tadasuke Makino Position 7th (QF1 GrpA 3rd, QF2 7th)

Continuing from the last race at Suzuka, we prepared the set-up with the new concept. There was a big difference between the good part and the bad part, but still I was third place in QF1.

I went into QF2 with a more aggressive set-up, however, losing time in Sec3 was same. Sec3 will be the key for a victory in the race.

Tomorrow, I will start from the 7th grid, where I have a chance to finish within the top 3. We are still in the process of trial and error, but will keep developing the car to recover our true potential.

#6: Kakunoshin Ota Position 20th (QF1 GrpB 10th)

I had been struggling since Free Practice in the morning.

After the last race, I've been making close communication with my team to prepare for this round. However, I couldn't produce a good result in QF.

I am frustrated because I could've done more.

I am having a hard time, however, anything would happen during a race, so, I will respond flexibly to earn at least a point.