



DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING

Team Release

Race Report

2023/5/21 Rd-4 Autopolis

Weather: Fine Temperature: 26°C, 22cars

Audience: 3,700/20th (Sat.) 6,000/21st (Sun) TOTAL 9,700

The weather had been good through the weekend at Autopolis, and today, it got hotter than yesterday.

By the time the race started, the air temperature rose to 24°C and the surface temperature rose to near 40°C.

On the opening lap, Makino kept the 7th position, and Ota overtook two cars to 18th. Makino was eager to quicken his pace, however, at Autopolis where it is very difficult to overtake, he had to be patient behind the leader.

Since Ota, who was driving at a good pace, was under the same situation, the team decided to call both drivers into the pits at the same time to change their tires on L10 when the pit-stop window opened.

After Makino's pit-stop was done perfectly, a trouble occurred in the rear jack system, and it caused Ota to lose much time while Makino's under-cut strategy worked well to become top among the drivers who had changed tires.

However, Lawson who changed tires on L13 and Sakaguchi who did on L14 came back on-track in front of Makino.

Makino, whose tires had been already warm, pushed hard to almost sideswipe them, but in vain because anybody's tires got warm easily at this circuit, so he stayed in third among the tire-changed group.

Ota tried to recover his position driving at a good pace, however, could not overtake Alesi who was fast in Straight for laps.

When the safety car came in on L29 because of a car which went off-track, the stay-out group went into the pits at once.

Since two cars came in front of Makino, he became 5th and Ota became 15th. After the race was restarted on L34, Hirakawa whose tires were fresh came close to Makino at a heat.

In spite of his clever blocking, he was overtaken and finished the race in 6th. Ota ended up in 16th



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#5: Tadasuke Makino Position 6th

In spite of the good strategy and good pace, I was caught in the traffic of the stay-out group for an unexpectedly long time, and also I couldn't compete Lawson and Sakaguchi on their out-lap.

I'm afraid that we are still far behind the top teams, but the race contents were not bad at all regardless of the result.

So, we will continue to develop in this direction for the next race at SUGO.

#6: Kakunoshin Ota Position 16th

It was a positive action that we changed the QF set-up largely for the race, and we learned a lot of things this weekend.

Because of the mistake at QF, I started from behind and I couldn't get any points, however, it was worth it for the next race.

I had been struggling with several things, but now I see a light ahead.

I will perform well in QF first, and aim at getting points next, then aim at the podium.