



# DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING

Team Release

## Race Report

### 2023/6/18 Rd-5 Sportsland SUGO

Weather: Fine/Cloudy Temperature: 31°C, 22cars

Audience: 5,000/17<sup>th</sup> (Sat.) 8,000/18<sup>st</sup> (Sun) TOTAL 13,000

Just like yesterday, it became a real hot day with over 30°C at Sportsland SUGO. When the 51-lap race began, gathering clouds lowered the temperature a little. Makino started from the 7th grid and Ota from the 9th grid. They both raised one position, passing Hirakawa who was on the 5th grid and made a mistake on starting.

Meanwhile, there was a car which failed to start and could not move on the track. Also, a sideswipe accident occurred in 4 Corner, so the safety car came in.

The race was restarted on L5. The leading group was driving slowly, and the team figured that the risk of catching up with the stay-out group was reduced because of the safety car situation at the early stage.

So, they called Makino into the pits on L10 when the pit-stop window was open, and Ota on L11 to change tires.

After the pit-stop, Makino's lap was .5 sec faster than the stay-out group, while Ota was marking fast times not inferior to the top group.

The invisible battle with the stay-out group in the lead was going on.

However, when the race entered the middle stage, trouble had broken out in the engine of Ota's car, and he could not keep the pace.

On the other hand, Makino, who was aiming for the actual 2nd position in the invisible battle, also had trouble in the steering in the latter half of the race, and could not push.

They never gave up the race, and kept driving.

In the end, Makino won the first podium this season in 3rd place, and Ota finished Rd 5 in 15th.



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#5: Tadasuke Makino Position 3rd

I am glad that I could mount on the podium for the first time this season.

I also feel relieved to leave a good result for the co-operative companies, fans and my team.

From the Free Practice result, I was anxious about the race, but anyway, I was willing to try everything I could do.

I made a good start, our strategy worked, and until the end, I could keep a good pace, which was still behind the leader, though.

It became a good starting point for the latter half of the season.

To be honest, before the race and during the closing stage, I was afraid that I had to retire from the race because of the trouble. So, we have a lot to reexamine before the test at Fuji next week.

#6: Kakunoshin Ota Position 15th

I started from the best grid this season, and even raised my position right away.

I was competitive enough, since my pace was good and the strategy was working. However, from the beginning of the middle stage, the engine power became unstable.

I couldn't quicken my pace any more and dropped my position largely.

Even so, what I have been working on with my team is certainly leading to a favorable outcome.

We will deal with issues to be improved in the next test at Fuji.