

## Race Report 2023/7/16 Rd-6 FUJI SPEEDWAY

Weather: Cloudy Temperature:  $26^{\circ}$ C, 22cars Audience: 12,700/15<sup>th</sup> (Sat.) 20,500/16<sup>st</sup> (Sun) TOTAL 33,200

Super Formula Rd6 at Fuji Speedway was held as 'Summer Festival in Fuji Motorsports Forest' on the three-day weekend in July, just before the summer break, drawing more than 30,000 spectors.

It was forecast to be a real summer day, however, it was cloudy like the day before with the temperature around  $25^{\circ}$ C, and even felt cool.

On the opening lap, Makino at the pole position earned 1 sec time margin, securing his position.

Ohta, who started from the third grid, missed the start because of too much wheel spin, and also bad positioning in the traffic caused dropping his position to 7th. When the pit-stop window opened after L10, the team called Ohta into the pits first to change tires.

In response to Lowson who made a pit-stop next lap, the team called Makino in on L12, and without any pit-work trouble, sent him back on-track in front of Lawson. However, he failed to block Lowson, whose tires had been already warm, in Coca-Cola Corner.

Makino and Lowson in front drove at the same speed for laps.

Ohta in 5th competed with Miyata and Sato for the 3rd place.

In the final stage of the race, Lowson gradually escaped from Makino who tried hard to catch up. At last, Makino finished second with mortification.

Ohta was overtaken by Hirakawa who stayed out until near the end of the race, and finished in 6th with the first points this season.



## #5: Tadasuke Makino Position 2nd

The only word to describe this weekend is 'frustrating'.

I was aiming for my first win from the pole position, but I was not a match for Lowson in skill.

From the first half to the middle stage of the race, our laps were almost the same, and my strategy was working. However, my in-lap was a little slow, and on the other hand, Lowson's out-lap was fast, so, in the latter half, the gap between us widened .1 sec every lap.

Since finishing 3rd in Rd5 at Sugo, I had been in good shape, even in the test, and then, I took the pole position this time. There were a lot of positive things. I will do everything I can with my team to win the next race at Motegi.

#6: Kakunoshin Ohta Position 6th

Because too much wheel spin occurred at the start and my positioning was not good, I dropped my position a lot.

The race pace was fast, so instantaneously misjudging influenced the result greatly.

I got a good result in QF, and I came to have confidence in my own ability and in my car.

This weekend led us to be hopeful about races to come. I am looking forward to the next race.