



## Qualifying Report

**2023/10/28 Rd-8 SUZUKA circuit**

Weather : Fine Temperature : 19°C 22cars

The 2023 season with the new machine SF23, containing nine races in seven events, will end with this 7th event at Suzuka. Same as last year, Rd8 will be held on Saturday and Rd9 on Sunday, and on both days, Knock-out QF1 and QF2 will be in the morning and the 31-lap race in the afternoon. Heated battles will take place in each session in the busy schedule.

Ohta in GrpA went on-track with the used tires for a check run.

Then, after changing to new tires, he started to attack with less than 5 min remaining.

In spite of recording the fastest time in the group in Sec3, he moved on to QF2 in third, because his time was not as good as other drivers in Sec1 and Sec2.

Makino in GrpB also went on-track with the used tires as soon as the session began to confirm the performance of his car.

In the last 5 min, he warmed the new tires carefully and attacked.

Each driver's time was so close in every section, and Makino made it for QF2 in fourth by a narrow margin of .095 sec.

QF2 was competed by the top 12 drivers in QF1. The team decided to send the two cars on-track with 4 min and 30 sec remaining.

When they started to attack after one-lap warm-up run, Car#65 went off the track and the red flag interruption occurred.

There were only 3 min remaining after QF2 was restarted.

For only one-lap attack, Makino wore new tires and on the other hand, Ohta stayed with the used tires which were already warmed.

Since Makino's new tires did not exert enough performance, he finished in third.

Ohta finished in fourth because he could not shorten his time in the last sector.

They will start side by side from the second row in the afternoon race.



## DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING

*Team Release*

#5: Tadasuke Makino Position 3rd (QF1 GrpB 4th, QF2 3rd)

I totaled my car in the last race at Motegi, so I came into the race with a new car. Checking feelings about the car, I made it through QF1.

I went for an attack in QF2, checking the set-up. When the red flag came out, I had already passed Sec1. so I struggled to choose either the same used tires or new ones.

I watched competitors move and decided to attack with new tires.

As a result, I don't think there was much difference.

To repay my team for preparing a new car for me after the crash at Motegi, I will aim for a victory this afternoon.

#6: Kakunoshin Ohta Position 4th (QF1 GrpA 3rd, QF2 4th)

I was trying to take a pole position in QF, and I was confident.

However, because of the red flag interruption, strategies were divided and I ended up in fourth.

I know that my car and myself are in good shape on a high level.

So, I will focus on starting first, then, push aggressively to finish in the top group.