



Qualifying Report

2024/3/9 Rd-1 SUZUKA circuit

Weather : Cloudy/Fine Temperature : 7°C 21cars

2024 Super Formula Championship opened at Suzuka Circuit one month earlier than usual.

Ohta, who won the last race of 2023 season, and Makino, who recorded the top times in three sessions out of four in the first Official Test in February, had all prepared for QF for Rd1.

QF was held in the cold gusty north wind with the air temperature of 7°C and the surface temperature of 13°C. It was very important how to warm tires to bring the peak of their performance.

In the knock-out QF1, Ohta in GrpA did a check-run with used tires as soon as the session started, and returned on-track with new tires in the last six min.

He warmed tires carefully, and attacked on the second measuring lap.

He made it to QF2 first.

Makino in GrpB changed to new tires after checking the track.

He made an attack after two warm-up laps as he planned.

He moved on to QF2 in second.

Both Ohta and Makino adjusted the set-ups for QF2. Just like QF1, Ohta chose to attack in his second measuring lap, and Makino did in his third.

Ohta who was a little behind the leader in Sec1 and Sec2 tried to make up for lost time in Sec3. He finished second only by .09 sec.

On the other hand, Makino's set-up adjustment did not function well, and even though he quickened his pace in Sec3, he ended up in 8th.



DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING

Team Release

#5: Tadasuke Makino Position 8th (QF1 GrpB 2nd, QF2 8th)

It was pretty cold, but I had a good feeling in Free Practice and QF1.

Before QF2, we adjusted the set-up a little in anticipation of surface condition change. However, the car balance had changed more than assumed.

I am frustrated that I finished QF in 8th.

I wanted to start the season with a good QF result.

Anyway, I will make it up in the race tomorrow.

#6: Kakunoshin Ohta Position 2nd (QF1 GrpA 1st, QF2 2nd)

It has been only two weeks since the first official test.

I analyzed several issues with my team to come into the first round.

In QF2, I had made the best attack ever, and I thought I took the pole position, however, I didn't reach it slightly.

Tomorrow, I will start from the second position like I did in the last race in 2023.

I will make the best start to win at Suzuka in a row.