



## **Race Report**

**2024/3/10 Rd-1 SUZUKA circuit**

Weather: Fine Temperature: 11°C, 21cars

Audience: 13,000/9<sup>th</sup> (Sat.) 20,000/10<sup>th</sup> (Sun) TOTAL 33,000

The 2024 Super Formula opener was held as '2024 NGK Spark Plug Suzuka 2 & 4'. The sunlight was a little stronger than yesterday, however the north wind was blowing hard.

For all this condition, Grandstand was in full swing with more than twenty thousand spectators when the race started.

Ohta, who made a good start from the second grid in the front row, dropped his position to 7th because of a series of wheel spins.

On the other hand, Makino raised two positions to 6th before First Corner.

Since a sideswipe accident occurred in "S" Curve caused two cars off-track, the safety car came in at the beginning of L2.

The race was restarted on L6.

Ohta, who was preceded by Makino because of a mistake at the start, came close to him using Overtake System (OTS) in Chicane.

These teammates competed fiercely and almost contacted each other several times.

When the pit-stop window was open on L10, the team decided to change Makino's tires.

On next L11, Ohta made a pit-stop. They were going to push hard in QF mode to reduce a gap to the stay-out group then.

However, Makino could not stabilize his pace after the tire change because of bad car balance.

In the latter half of the race, Makino in the actual 6th struggled to control his car, and all he could do was to keep his position.

He dropped his position to 10th, still managed to get a precious one point in the end.

Ohta in 4th was aiming for the podium. He quickened his lap pace and used OTS aggressively while Yamamoto in 3rd fought against it.

Ohta finished the season opener in 4th by .75 sec.



## DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING

*Team Release*

#5: Tadasuke Makino 10th

I made a good start and drove at a good pace.

I thought I should drive in clean-air to raise my position, so I made a pit-stop after the minimum laps required.

I was blocked by a slow car on the out-lap and lost time, moreover I had a weird feeling about my car after the tire change and I couldn't drive at the pace I planned.

The environment including temperature at Autopolis next will be different, so I will find a solution adaptable to Autopolis with my team to compete there.

#6: Kakunoshin Ohta Position 4th

Although I prepared elaborately for a start, I made a mistake and dropped my position a lot.

My pace in the race was pretty good, and it was in QF, too.

So, I should say positively that 4th place in the season opener was not bad considering the whole season.

We will analyze data from this race to reevaluate totally and also will take a careful measure to a start before the Autopolis round.