



DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING

Team Release

Race Report

2024/5/19 Rd-2 AUTOPOLIS

Weather: Fine Temperature: 23°C, 21cars

Audience: 5,600/18th (Sat.) 8,900/19th (Sun) TOTAL 14,500

It had been clear during the weekend at Autopolis.

The wind was stronger than yesterday, so it felt a little chilly, however, because of the strong sunlight, the air temperature was 23°C and the surface temperature was over 40°C when the race began.

Makino got off to a hot start, and went into First Corner first.

Ohta overtook one car to 6th on the opening lap.

Makino at a good pace finished the opening lap in the first place with a lead of more than 1 sec, and increased the margin by 0.5 sec every lap.

On the other hand, Ohta, whose pace was not bad, had to follow a car ahead because it was difficult to overtake at this circuit.

So, the team decided to call him into the pits for tire change at L10 when the pit window opened.

Yamamoto in second made a pit-stop on L10. From this point, the invisible three-cornered battle with Yamamoto in first and Ohta in second among the tire-changed group and the leader Makino had begun.

Makino kept his pace to dominate the race, and finally made a pit-stop on L25, together with Iwasa in second.

After the team's perfect pit-work, he returned on-track in the virtual first place. Yamamoto was second, and Ohta was third at the beginning of the latter half of the race. Ohta tried very hard to block the following cars, whose tires were fresh, to see the podium, however, the early tire change caused tire abrasion and he was overtaken by two cars. He finished in 5th.

Makino led the race from beginning to end, and claimed his long-hoped-for first victory in his sixth year of Super Formula participation.



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#5: Tadasuke Makino 1st

This is my third season after moving to DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING. Although the team has been providing me with the indubitably excellent environment, I couldn't win.

I had been irritated while my teammates won the races.

Today, the race strategies were good, and my pace was good.

Honestly, I am relieved with this victory.

From this moment, my target is becoming the champion, not only for myself, but also for the co-operative companies and my fans.

With the entire team working together, we will prepare for the next race at Sugo.

#6: Kakunoshin Ohta Position 5th

Even though the strategies and my race pace were good, I couldn't reach Yamamoto ahead. In the latter half of the race, I was trying to reduce the abrasion of tires, but couldn't block the cars with fresh tires, and I ended up in 5th. The result would have been different if I finished the QF attack just a little bit faster.

The race itself was very productive for the next race, because I found the good parts, issues to reflect on and tasks all through the weekend.

In the next round at Sugo, I will completely follow through with QF, and aim for the podium along with Makino.