



## **DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING**

*Team Release*

### **Race Report**

#### **2025/3/9 Rd-2 SUZUKA circuit**

Weather: Cloudy/Fine Temperature: 15°C, 22cars

Audience: 14,500/8<sup>th</sup> (Sat.) 18,000/9<sup>th</sup> (Sun) TOTAL 32,500

Rd2 was held as one of two races in the first event at Suzuka Circuit.

Unlike Rd1 yesterday, the tire change window was not prescribed, thus, different strategies were required.

The race started with calculations of the teams and the drivers.

Ohta in the 3rd grid did not accelerate enough and was overtaken in First Corner by Makino from the 5th grid.

Ohta finished L1 in 4th, while Makino did in 3rd, and considering Nojiri ahead, the team called Ohta into the pits.

Ohta pushed aggressively with the cold tires right after the pit-stop, and overtook Nojiri in Spoon Curve. However, Iwasa returned on the track ahead of him, so Ohta became second among the pit-out group.

Makino, who chose to stay-out, kept driving in QF mode to widen the time difference to the pit-out group, recording the best time again and again.

Ohta was aiming at the timing of overtaking Iwasa ahead, and finally jumped inside of him in Chicane on L14. However, he overran, and it caused to get an additional 5 sec-penalty.

On L20, the leader Makino made a pit-stop with a margin of 37.5 sec to Ohta, the leader of the pit-out group.

He succeeded to return on the track ahead of Ohta after tire change, however, his tires were still cold and he was overtaken by Ohta in NIPPO Corner.

On L24, taking advantage of fresh tires, Makino overtook Ohta in Back Straight.

At this point, the difference between Ohta in 2nd and Tuboi in 3rd was 4.2 sec.

Ohta pushed hard to recover an additional 5 sec. Unfortunately, the safety car came in on L28 because of a car which went off-track in S Corner, and stayed on-track until the end of the race.

Makino won at Suzuka for the first time.

Ohta finished in 2nd, however, an additional 5 sec-penalty dropped his position to 12th.



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### #5: Tadasuke Makino Position 1st

I am so happy all the more because it was a very frustrating race, and I feel deeply about my first victory at Suzuka.

I made a good start, and I was able to respond to the new format of the race.

We couldn't decide on pit-stop tactics against Team Mugen until the last moment, but as a matter of fact, we had no choice but to wait.

My race pace was good, but it could be improved.

I wished for a 1-2 finish with Ohta. I hope to have a good battle with him in the next race at Motegi as we did last year.

### #6: Kakunoshin Ohta Position 12th

I did the best that I could.

The race strategy was good, and my car was quick.

I overtook Nojiri with the cold tires, and competed with Iwasa aggressively.

I have nothing left to say except bad luck about finishing with the safety car and getting a time penalty.

I was acting on the offensive and my quickness is true, so I will show a good performance from now on.