



Qualifying Report

2021/4/24 Rd-2 SUZUKA Circuit

Weather : Cloudy/Fine Temperature : 20°C 19cars

Two young drivers of Docomo Team Dandelion Racing, Nirei Fukuzumi who became 3rd and mounted the podium and Ukyo Sasahara who substituted for Makino and brought points home, did great jobs in the 2021 season opener.

Rd2 at Suzuka will be the key to the championship, so the drivers including veterans who are skilled at performing in this circuit will jumble together and the race will be hot.

In Knock-out QF1, Sasahara in GrpA warmed his car and did a check-run as soon as the QF started, and with 6 min remaining, he went on-track with new tires on. He moved on to QF2 in third.

Sasahara in GrpB also did a check-run as soon as it began, and went on-track in the last 5 min. He shortened his lap time again and again, and finally made it to QF2 in first.

In the following QF2, Fukuzumi came out on top with the lead of 0.3 sec. Since Sasahara could not meet the surface condition in spite of adjusting the set-up, he made it through QF3 in 7th.

Fukuzumi who aimed for the first place in continuation of QF1 and QF2 finished QF3 without a mistake, recording the top time. He became first in every session of the qualification, and took the pole position for the first time.

On the other hand, Sasahara adjusted the set-up furthermore and had a better feeling about the car. He ended up in 5th and was going to start from the third row the next day.

#5: Nirei Fukuzumi Position 1st (QF1 GrpB 1st, QF2 1st, QF3 1st) 1st among Honda users

I had been having a good feeling about my car and myself since Free Practice, and my team completed my car remarkably every time I drove.

So, QF was just perfect with the first place in every session.

This is my first pole position in Super Formula. Before, I was frustrated several times when I was 2nd or 3rd in QF, but now I am very happy.

I will try to stay in good condition tomorrow, and prepare for the perfect 'pole to win'. I will bring out my best for the first victory of Super Formula.



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#6: Ukyo Sasahara Position 5th (QF1 GrpA 3rd, QF2 7th, QF3 5th) 4th among Honda users
MY car was well-balanced in Free Practice and QF, and I felt a certain reaction. On data, my car's corner speed was as fast as Fukuzumi's car which took the pole position, however, because of time loss in accelerating sections, I couldn't reduce my time.

Starting from the 5th grid, I have a good chance to stand on the podium, or even win the race. I will examine strategy and set-up with my team, and focus on reaching the goal first.



Race Report

2021/4/25 Rd-2 SUZUKA Circuit

Weather: Fine Temperature: 23°C, 19cars

Audience: 7,000/24th (Sat.) 9,500/25th (Sun.) 16,500 total

Rd2 of the 2021 season was just about to start under a clear sky with a strong tail wind blowing above Main Straight at Suzuka Circuit.

Fukuzumi made a steady start from the pole position and kept the lead.

Sasahara who started from the fifth grid in the third row had to change his line a lot to avoid the car ahead slowing down because of engine stall, and finished the opening lap in 4th.

Fukuzumi who extended his lead was the only one recording 1'40 seconds', and he dominated the race while Sasahara was awaiting a chance in the following group.

On Lap9, when Fukuzumi was driving smoothly for his first victory with more than 3 sec lead to them, suddenly had trouble with the right rear tire.

He managed to come back to the pits, however, the suspension was damaged and he retired from the race here.

Sasahara now in third made a pit stop on Lap11 to prevent Sekiguchi who changed his tires on Lap10 from preceding him.

Sasahara succeeded to keep the third position by the team's exceptional pit work.

On Lap16, an accident occurred and the safety car came in because of the car gone off the track. The race was restarted on Lap20, and thus it turned to be a 10-lap sprint race. Sasahara tried to catch Hirakawa in second using the overtake system, however in vain and finished in third. He climbed the podium of Super Formula for the first time.



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#5: Nirei Fukuzumi Retired

This weekend, I was at the top in every section in QF, and in the race, even though I was a little nervous at the start, I could widen my lead from the beginning and could dominate the race watching the competitors' moves.

When I felt uneasy with the rear tire on Lap9, it all happened in a moment.

I was so frustrated that I had to retire from the race because of the damage in my car, but I could have confidence in myself and my car.

I will make it up in the rest of the races in the season.

#6: Ukyou Sasahara Position 3rd (2nd among Honda users)

At the start, a car stalled its engine in front of me, but I could cut my way to keep my position. However, far from quickening my pace, I just followed the others, even though I pushed very hard to raise my position.

Thanks to the strategy and the pit work, I could aim for second place in the latter half, but I ended up in third.

I am truly grateful for my team's support, because with this support, I drove through the race without regrets and finished in third on my first podium to bring points home.