



Qualifying Report

2021/5/15 Rd-3 AUTOPOLIS

Weather : Rain Temperature : 19°C 19cars

2021 Super Formula Rd3 was going to be held at Autopolis, the only international circuit in Kyushu. It was forecast for rain on both QF day and the race day. Especially QF day, heavy rain was expected in the afternoon, so knock-out QF was changed to 40min-single-stint format.

Makino, who had been absent because of poor health, came back here to the competition for the championship. His performance in the rain was greatly anticipated.

QF session started 20 min late due to the bad weather, however, a red flag came out because of a crash right after. When the session was restarted, Fukuzumi started to attack with new tires at a good timing. Only 8 min after the restart, a red flag came out for the second time because of a car spun. It was restarted with 27 min remaining, and both Fukuzumi and Makino went on-track with new wet tires.

This time it was Fukuzumi who caused the third red flag condition. He ran on to a curb and went off the track in the last sector while attacking.

When QF restarted again with 21 min remaining, the rain got heavier. Under the sevier condition for shortening laps, a crash occurred and a red flag came out for the fourth time.

As soon as the session restarted with 15 min remaining, the rain got even heavier, and finally QF was over.

Fukuzumi was penalized for causing a red flag, and his QF record was deleted. He was going to start from the tail end. Makino missed the timing and finished in 8th.

#5: Nirei Fukuzumi Deletion of QF record

It was nice to hold QF in a lull in the heavy rain, but while the condition changed rapidly, I lost control during attacking and span to cause the red flag interruption. I will start from the tail end. It will also rain tomorrow, so I will examine set-up and strategy with my team to survive the race.



DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING *Team Release*

#6: Tadasuke Makino Position 8th (2nd among Honda users)

I had been ill since last year-end, and finally came back here. I am truly grateful for your support and also for Sasahara's professional achievement.

This is my first race with Dandelion Racing. I had a little concern about the load to my body and the rainy condition, however, I did all right in Free Practice and QF. I was not able to show my ability 100%, but I will prepare for the race tomorrow to compete in my way.



Race Report

2021/5/16 Rd-3 AUTOPOLIS

Weather: Rain Temperature: 22°C, 19cars

Audience: 1,800/15th (Sat.) 2,830/16th (Sun.) 4,630 total

The rainy season has set in three weeks earlier than usual at Autopolis. Free Practice in the morning was canceled due to heavy rain, strong wind and thick fog. Thus, the warm-up run was extended to 20 min from originally 8 min.

Under the heavy-wet condition, Makino who was with DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING for the first time tried to drive enthusiastically, however, his car was carried off the track by the water flow on the surface in Corner 13 and the front part was damaged.

It caused a red flag to come out and the session was over.

In only 10 min, the team succeeded to repair Makino's car and placed it in the starting grid.

The race started 40 min behind the schedule because of the bad weather and a dense fog.

Makino got off to a hot start from the 8th grid and raised his position.

However, in order to dodge the crashed cars in Corner 1, he ran out into the gravel. Even though he had escaped a sideswipe accident, he fell to 15th.

On the other hand, Fukuzumi raised his position to 13th from the 18th grid.

The safety car came in because of this accident in Corner 1, and the race was restarted on Lap5.

Both drivers overtook one by one carefully. On Lap12, the race was interrupted by a red flag due to the torrential rainfall. After a-hour standby, at 16:30, the end of the race with this red flag was declared.

Fukuzumi in 11th at the moment was penalized with additional 5 sec for the sideswipe battle in the early stage, and became 13th.

Makino finished the rough race in 14th.



DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING

Team Release

#5: Nirei Fukuzumi Position 13th (7th among Honda users)

My starting was not bad and at the beginning, I raised my position gradually aiming for finishing with some points. However, it was a difficult race because the condition changed rapidly again and again. We realized what it was we lacked and what we should verify through the race under wet condition. We will utilize this results for the next race and win.

#6: Tadasuke Makino Position 14th (8th among Honda users)

I crashed in the warm-up run before the start, and I am grateful to my team for placing my car in the grid in such a short time. I made a good start, but I am frustrated that I dropped my position because I couldn't find space.

It was my first race with Dandelion Racing. Too bad that we had the bad weather and limited sessions to drive, and I couldn't leave a good result. Radically, my car's speed was not fast enough. I will examine data with my team and prepare for the next race at SUGO.