



## DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING

Team Release

### Qualifying Report

**2022/4/10 Rd-2 FUJI Speedway**

Weather : Fine Temperature : 21°C 21cars

It was the 2022 opening event weekend at Fuji Speedway. Following Rd1 yesterday, Rd2 QF was held. With higher temperatures than yesterday, the surface temperature rose to 30 degree C. Unlike yesterday, the strong wind fell dead and the weather was perfect for a race.

Otsu, 2021 Rookie of the Year, in GrpA went on track as soon as QF started wearing new tires only in front, just like he did yesterday. Then, he came back into the pits soon to change rear tires to the new ones and started to attack. His times were not bad in Sec 1 and 2, however, he could not quicken it Sec 3. He moved on to QF2 in 6th.

Makino in GrpB went on track with used tires when QF began. Having obtained the operational feel of the car, he went on track again with new tires in the last 7 min. He attacked on his third lap after two laps of warm-up run. However, as well as Otsu, his time in Sec 3 was not good and finished in 6th. Unfortunately, on the point of QF ending, the competitor raised one position up, and Makino became 7th. He did not make it to QF2.

In QF2, Otsu went on track with 6 min remaining. After two laps of warm-up run, he started to attack. Although he adjusted the set-up, things did not get better, and he finished QF in 12th.

#5: Tadasuke Makino Position 13th (QF1 GrpB 7th) 6th among Honda users

We took the measures against the issues from yesterday, including changing the set-up especially for Sec 3. I had a better feeling in Sec 3, but I had to give up the performance in Sec 2 a little instead. Totally, our strategy didn't work and I couldn't go to QF2. However, my performance in Sec 3, which will be particularly important in the race, is much better now. So, I will focus on making a good start and aim to finish in the top group.

#6: Hiroki Otsu Position 12th (QF1 GrpA 6th, QF2 12th) 5th among Honda users

I went into QF with a different set-up from yesterday. I managed to clear QF1, but I couldn't shorten my time in QF2 as I expected. I will start from the 12th grid. I had a better feeling about the set-up which I tried in QF, so I will prepare my car perfectly in a short time before the race with my team crews.



## DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING

Team Release

### Race Report

#### 2022/4/10 Rd-2 FUJI Speedway

Weather: Fine Temperature: 24°C, 21cars

Audience: 10,300/9<sup>th</sup> (Sat.) 10,700/10<sup>th</sup> (Sun) 21,000 total

Rd2, which was one of two races contained in the 2022 opening event at Fuji Speedway, was held only two and half hours after QF.

Although there was no wind in the morning, the head wind became stronger above the main straight, in the opposite direction from yesterday.

The air temperature also rose to 24 degree C with the surface temperature over 30 degree C.

The driver in the third grid stalled the engine at a start, but it came to nothing serious. Makino and Otsu, who raised their positions much, competed with each other from the beginning.

However, Makino got rear-ended by Matsushita and span in Dunlop Corner. Because of this accident, Makino had to retire from the race, being damaged to the rear tire, and the safety car came in.

When the race was restarted on L5, Otsu came close to Alesi. Otsu made a pit-stop on L11 to change tires, trying to under-cut Alesi who made a pit-stop on L10.

Otsu fought with him for 20 laps recording 24 seconds' as fast as the top group, then finally, he overtook Alesi on L31 and raised his position to 7th.

However, he could not reach 6th with 10 laps left, and finished in 7th bringing 4 points home.

#5: Tadasuke Makino Retired

My car's balance was improving gradually from Rd1 to QF in the morning, so we added a little adjustment to the aerodynamics device for the race. I had a good feeling during 8-minute free practice, and I raised my position a lot at the start. Therefore, I am very frustrated that I had to retire from the race because of a collision accident.

There will be another race at Fuji in July, so we will study today's result for it.

Next Suzuka Circuit is a completely different type of course from Fuji. I will refresh my mind and extract good points and problems to make it up for today.



## **DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING**

*Team Release*

#6: Hiroki Otsu Position 7th (3rd among Honda users)

In spite of a car stalled its engine, I made a good start and raised my position while competing with Makino.

I had the best feeling about my car in the weekend, and my pace was stable.

If I could've overtaken Alesi sooner, the race would have been different.

So, I have to work on my overtaking skill.

Suzuka, where the next race will take place in two weeks, is compatible with me.

I performed extremely well in the last test. I will prepare for it to show my substantial ability.