



May 23rd, 2022

TEAM MUGEN

SUPER FORMULA RACE REPORT

#1 Nojiri won the third pole in a row

Both #1 and #15 scored the points

in spite of the tough race

2022 Japanese SUPER FORMULA Championship Round 4 AUTOPOLIS
Course: 4,674km x 42 laps (196.392km)
May 20th, 2022 (Sat) Weather: Fine / Road condition: Dry
May 21st, 2022 (Sun) Weather: Fine / Road condition: Dry

■ Qualifying: #1 Tomoki Nojiri: 1st place / #15 Ukyo Sasahara: 4th place

【Driver: Nojiri】



Qualifying of the Rd. 4 AUTOPOLIS has just ended. I am happy to win the pole position, but at the same time confused honestly. From the morning free session, the road condition was not good and gripping feeling of the car was not good, either. There were so many things I had to be concerned about. But with the help of team's effort, we won the pole then I am extremely happy anyway.

I am afraid that the tires will be worn a lot in this race. We need to modify the current set-up in order to win the race. I will discuss the set-up with the team members to prepare for the victory. Please continue to support us.

【Driver: Sasahara】

I had the same feeling on tire gripping as Nojiri-san did in the morning free session. We adjusted its setting but “Any difference?” That was what I felt then and I tried to persuade myself that this was caused by environmental change.

Despite the poor adjustment in the end of Q2 and my insufficient performance, we could score the 4th place. Since I can start the race from the second row of the starting grid for tomorrow's race, I will take this qualifying positively and make use of this chance for winning the race.



The team struggled to prepare the car for me then I would like to get a result somehow. I will try to race as usual and possibly compete in the front group and record informative driving data. Thank you for your continued support.

【Director: Tanaka】

Both cars were lacking car balance and gripping power from the morning free session. In addition, we could not improve such deficits within the session.

Honestly speaking I doubted that we would not win the pole. But by virtue of data analysis between the driver and his engineer just before the qualifying session began, applaudably Nojiri scored the pole position!

On the other hand, Sasahara's car balance remained poor but qualified 2nd in the A group of Q1 session. We then looked forward to the Q2 result, but due to unexpected change of the road condition, he ended up the qualifying session 4th place.

Nojiri of course will win with a lights-to-flag! Sasahara, we hope will show the best performance tomorrow since he has not as of now in this season yet.

■ Race: #1 Tomoki Nojiri: 4th place / #15 Ukyo Sasahara: 7th place

【Driver: Nojiri】



The race was over, and I feel so disappointed honestly speaking. Looking back at the today's race my start was good, but I could not increase the pace. When Hirakawa came to 2nd position, I tried to stretch my lead from him but could not make it. Then the tires lost grips and I made a decision to make a pit stop.

Pace of the second tires was not fast enough. But we had nothing to do except adjustment and modifying the set-up. Three cars chose an overcut strategy to pass me. 4th place in the end can be acceptable considering remaining races. But I have no choice but to win the next race.

I thank you so much for your kind support.

【Driver: Sasahara】

Race pace itself was not bad then I could have speeded up but rather chose an undercut strategy to move up positions.

I tried to pass a slow car going ahead but when I reached the car, my car lost downforce, and which bothered the front tires. That was it in this race.

But at least I could feel and recognize car conditions including car balance and tires' condition under such an environment. I believe this experience will lead to success in the next race.



Since SUGO is my favorite course, I will do my very best. Thank you very much.

【Director: Tanaka】

Today's race was very tough. Nojiri suffered from unbalanced car and could not pick up his pace. He also had to devote himself into preventing Ritomo Miyata coming behind from overtaking him. On the other hand, Sasahara's car balance was not bad, but its pace was not good enough to pass cars going before him. He had to endure through the whole race.

Compared to the qualifying, the race was not really, but both drivers tried their best under severe condition and at least scored points. I would like to praise them considering remaining races in the rest of the season.

We thank all the sponsors, people concerned, and fans for so much support! We will analyze today's race and push two drivers to show their best performance in the next race at SUGO.







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