



## **Qualifying Report** **2022/7/16 Rd-6 FUJI SPEEDWAY**

Weather : Rain Temperature : 21°C 21cars

Hot sunny days had continued for one week after the end of the rainy season in the Kanto region, however, on QF day at Fuji Speedway, it was rainy as if the rainy season had come back again. It had been raining since the morning, and Free Practice in the morning was interrupted by the red flag because of the heavy rain.

Since the heavy rain was predicted again around 3 PM when QF would start, the 30min-timing format was adopted instead of the knock-out for QF.

The rainfall changed minute by minute, and so was the surface condition. The drivers of DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING, Makino and Otsu, stayed on-track and kept attacking every lap. After 7 min from the start, a crashed car caused the red flag interruption. While waiting for the restart of the session, Makino and Otsu adjusted the car balance. When the session was restarted at 15:26, the rain was so heavy that none of the top group drivers could not shorten his best time, even some cars went off-track. With 7 min remaining, the red flag interruption occurred again because of a car stopped on the track. It was restarted with 6 min and 37 sec remaining, however, the rain became heavier again and the session was interrupted for the third time with 1 min and 29 sec remaining. It ended there. Otsu finished QF in 5th and Makino did in 6th.

#5: Tadasuke Makino Position 6th (3rd among Honda users)

The surface condition was changing every moment and it was very hard to meet circumstances in QF. It will be dry tomorrow and completely different from today's condition. Also, the result from SUGO had given me confidence.

I hope to finish the race on the podium along with Otsu.

#6: Hiroki Otsu Position 5rd (2nd among Honda users)

The surface condition was best at the start of QF. The heavier rain was forecasted, so we put emphasis on it for the race. I had a good feeling and could shorten my time. I think it was an excellent performance under that circumstance, but it would have been much better if I had been able to deviate attack timing.

Tomorrow, Makino and I will start from the positions where we have a good chance of winning. I will focus on making a good start to aim at victory.



# DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING

Team Release

## Race Report

### 2022/7/17 Rd-6 FUJI SPEEDWAY

Weather: Fine/Cloudy Temperature: 29°C, 21cars

Audience: 8,200/16<sup>th</sup> (Sat.) 13,900/17<sup>th</sup> (Sun) 22,100 total

Unlike the heavy rain in QF yesterday, it was sunny and hot like summer with 29 degree C air temperature and 40 degree C surface temperature when the drivers were waiting for a start on the grid.

Because of a car spun during the formation lap, the extra formation lap was added, thus, one lap was reduced from the 41-lap race.

At the start, Makino showed the excellent course taking and overtook two cars to 4th. On the other hand, Otsu chose outside of the track and was overtaken by one car to 6th.

Behind them, multiple crashes occurred because of confusion at starting.

Also, on L3, the wrecked car caused the safety car to come in.

The race was restarted on L10 and when the pit-stop window opened, the team called Otsu into the pits. They send him off to the track after the brilliant pit-work.

Makino made a pit-stop on L12. He succeeded in overcutting the cars which had already made pit-stops.

After returning on the track in second among the tire-changed group, he kept pushing hard to close on the stay-out group

Otsu had trouble with tire grip and could not quicken his pace for a while.

When the safety car came in because of the accident on L26, the stay-out group began to make pit-stops. Since Tsuboi slowed down and blocked Makino right behind him, Sasahara and Miyata who came out from the pits had preceded Makino.

Makino did everything he could for the higher rank in the last 10 laps, but in vain. He finished in 5th. Otsu managed to drive till the end and finished the race in 15th.



## DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING

*Team Release*

#5: Tadasuke Makino Position 5th (3rd among Honda users)

During the second SC situation, things went wrong unluckily, so I couldn't reach the podium.

I earned points constantly so far, and today, I made a good start, my pace was good, and I was fighting for the top three until then.

I am sure I have been making good progress, but I need one more step for a victory. There are four races in two events left. I will keep moving forward.

#6: Hiroki Otsu Position 15th (8th among Honda users)

I dropped one position at the start, so I tried to undercut by making an early pit-stop. However, I couldn't quicken my pace after the pit-stop. Because we couldn't match my car with the surface temperature change enough, my car slowed down more than my competitors', and it was all I could do to keep my position.

Although my performance in QF has been clearly improving, I did not make the best use of the good starting position in the last two races.

I should work on improving my own condition as well as my car's during a race. I will make a fresh start for the latter half of the season, and concentrate on preparation.