



無限 MUGEN



August 22nd, 2022

TEAM MUGEN **SUPER FORMULA RACE REPORT**

#1 Nojiri maintains top ranking with 4th place!

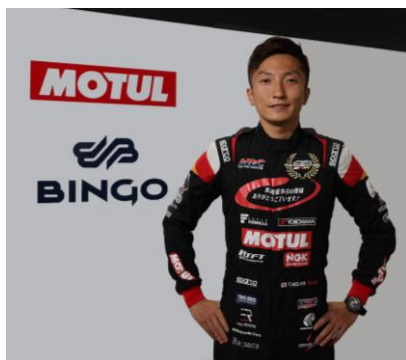
#15 Sasahara, amazing run, 8th place

from the tail end of the grid!

2022 Japanese SUPER FORMULA Championship Round 8 Mobility Resort Motegi
Course: 4,801km x 37 laps (177.637km) ※37 laps or 75 mins.
August 21st, 2022 (Sun) Weather: Cloudy / Road condition: Dry
August 21st, 2022 (Sun) Weather: Fine / Road condition: Dry

- Qualifying: #1 Tomoki Nojiri: 3rd place / #15 Ukyo Sasahara: NO RECORDS (21st place)
- Race: #1 Tomoki Nojiri: 4th place / #15 Ukyo Sasahara: 8th place

【Driver: Nojiri】



Both qualifying and the race of the round 8 have just ended. I finished 3rd in the qualifying session, and my target, Sasha, was 2nd. We considered his position to make a strategy including car setups for the race. I finished the race in 4th place as the result.

First of all, I am glad that we got off to a good start and was able to overtake Sacha. The car was set up well and pace was also good in the initial stages, but Oyu leading the race was slowing down, then I could not help but take an action first (I took a pit stop for tire change before he did)!

The team also worked quickly in the pits, and we were able to overtake Oyu, who was leading the race, on an out-lap, and after that, we were able to make attacks that would not let him pass me. As a result, though we let two TEAM IMPULs go ahead, considering the result of the previous day's Round 7, we had clarified what we should do then and what we should fight for and in fact I did follow such targets.

I wondered it would be a good idea to take such a risk as taking a pit stop (for a tire change) with the minimum number of laps like Mr. Sekiguchi at TEAM IMPUL, which won the championship did. But I had chosen Sasha (ranked 2nd) as our target over discussion with the team, and in fact we could receive a checkered flag ahead of him, which I believe is worth praising.

Of course, I wanted to win, but I tried my best to endure the race. To all the supporting companies, and fans who gave us cheers in the hot weather today, we will fight for the title at the next Suzuka race for you. Please continue to support us. Thank you very much.

【Driver: Sasahara】

Despite the unexpected troubles in the qualifying, I changed my mind and challenged the race. I did my best with the feeling that I had nothing to lose.

However, eight minutes before the race started, there was a problem with the drive system, and we were forced to wait on the grid without being able to check the setups for the race. Since I simply trusted in the engineers and had nothing to lose due to a start from the tail end of the grid, I was able to keep myself cool the whole time. And when I thought about the mechanics who worked so hard to fix the trouble of the car, I got fired up.



I made a good start and overtook 5 cars and came back in 15th on the first lap. After that, the condition of the car was good and the strategy of the team was also good, so we continued to attack and overtook our rivals, and finished the race in 8th place from the last. Seeing the fans cheering me on while I was taking the wheel was very encouraging. That kind of power also helped me, and I also feel like accomplishing this race.

I really appreciate your support and cooperation. At the final round in Suzuka, we will do our best further to respond to your support, so please continue to support us. Thank you very much.

【Director: Tanaka】

Today's race was very difficult to judge. Under such circumstances, Nojiri's strategy focused on series points, and I believe he could show a good performance. As I do know how difficult it is to consistently achieve top results in the Super Formula series, I am very satisfied with this result, and in fact Nojiri showed his best calmly.

Sasahara was unable to compete in qualifying due to a trouble with car parts in the qualifying session. Although other trouble occurred before the race, he concentrated on the race, and overtook so many cars from the last owing to his performance (the fast lap time) and strategy and moved up his position to 8th place in the end. Content of this race in which he showed his speed was worth praising. That is way, I wish there were no troubles in the qualifying, and I now just feel sorry for Sasahara.

The next round is the final race (double-header). Nojiri will definitely win the championship, and Sasahara will prepare to show his speed to win the race. Please continue to support us.









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