



## Qualifying Report

**2022/8/20 Rd-7 MOBILITY RESORT MOTEGI**

Weather : Cloudy Temperature : 27°C 21cars

At Mobility Resort Motegi in midsummer in the 2022 season, two consecutive races were held for the first time at this circuit. It was already tough enough for drivers, staff and race cars to compete in this oppressive heat and humidity, but they had to attend qualifications and a race both on Saturday and on Sunday. Besides managing physical conditions, countermeasures against heat for cars and tires would be of primary importance.

In QF1, as soon as the course opened, Otsu in Grp A started a check-run scrubbing tires, and with 5 min remaining, he went on-track with new rear tires. Because the car balance was insufficient when entering a corner, he finished in third for QF2.

Makino in Grp B also attacked with the scrubbed front tires and new rear tires. Even though he improved his best time in each sector, he lost time a little in Sec 2, and he moved on to QF2 in third.

In the following QF2, Makino attacked in his first measuring lap, and Otsu did in his second measuring lap. Makino went on-track in the last 4 and half minutes. Without any problem in set-up adjustment and tires, he improved his best lap and finished in 5th.

On the other hand, Otsu waited for good timing and went on-track.

However, he got caught in the traffic and had to attack before warming the tires well. Without a high grip performance, he ended up in 11th.



## DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING

*Team Release*

#5: Tadasuke Makino Position 5th (QF1 Grp B 3rd, QF2 5th) 4th among Honda users

I was feeling OK in QF1, but I changed set-up and attack timing slightly for QF2, assuming driving faster. Both changes worked and I shortened my time in QF1. Unfortunately, the drivers in the top group shortened their times much more and I became 5th.

It is hard to overtake at Motegi. So, I focus on starting, and aim for victory with race strategy and the total team capability.

#6: Hiroki Otsu Position 11th (QF1 Grp A 3rd, QF2 11th) 6th among Honda users

In QF2, I was stuck in the group of drivers attacking in the second measuring lap, and I couldn't bring my tires in the best condition.

I was confident to finish in the top group because I had a good feeling during QF1.

I should have changed the strategy according to circumstances, and I will in the Rd8 QF tomorrow.

I change my focus in a positive way for the race in the afternoon and will make an excellent start to survive.



## Race Report

### 2022/8/20 Rd-7 MOBILITY RESORT MOTEGI

Weather: Rain Temperature: 25°C, 21cars

Audience: 2,800/20<sup>th</sup> (Sat.)

Two-race format, Rd7 on Saturday and Rd8 on Sunday, is adopted for the 6th event at Mobility Resort Motegi. The race is held shortly after the QF is over.

During the 8-min warm-up run, the both drivers of DOKOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING practiced starting and checked set-ups, and did the final confirmation carefully on the starting grid. However, it began to rain 15 min before the start, and it became heavier.

Wet Race' was declared and it started with the safety car leading.

Makino who kept his position after making a steady start could not quicken his pace because his view field was blocked with a great splash made by a car ahead. On the other hand, Otsu was raising his position gradually, changing it to 11th→12th→11th→10th→9th.

In the middle stage of the race, Makino was finally able to quicken his pace to close to the three cars ahead.

However, it was so hard to overtake at Motegi, especially in the rain, that the top four cars continued the deadlock situation for a while.

In the final stage, the rain got even heavier, and the safety car came in because of a car spun on L10.

The race was restarted with 7 laps remaining. Makino, who was seeking the podium, could not raise his position, and finished in 4th.

Otsu developed a fierce battle for 9th place in the pouring rain, however, he dropped one position to 10th at the end, managing to earn a point.



## DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING

*Team Release*

#5: Tadasuke Makino Position 4th (3rd among Honda users)

It became SC start because of the rain which started to fall before the start.

It was extremely hard to raise the position at Motegi in rain plus with SC start.

I finished in 4th, partially due to the competitor's trouble. I went on-track with the set-up for slight rain, so I could drive at the fastest time in the middle stage when the rain had eased.

However, when the rain got heavier in the latter half, I couldn't go faster to catch the top three cars.

Rain is forecasted for tomorrow morning during QF.

I will focus on finishing QF in the top group first. We will examine today's result and recover our vigor.

#6: Hiroki Otsu Position 10th (5th among Honda users)

I adjusted the set-up assuming rain wouldn't get harder or might stop in the latter half.

My car was pretty competitive when the rain was light, but in the final stage, when the rain became heavy, my pace slowed down and I ended up in 10th place.

It will be rainy tomorrow, too. I will discuss with my team and prepare for QF and the race.