



Qualifying Report

2022/10/29 Rd-9 SUZUKA circuit

Weather : Fine Temperature : 18°C 21cars

The 2022 season, which consists of 10 races in 7 events, comes to the final events at Suzuka Circuit celebrating its 60th anniversary.

The 7th event which is held as JAF Grand Prix adopts a 2-race format, Rd9 on Saturday and Rd10 on Sunday.

On both days, knockout QF1 and QF2 will be held in the morning, and a 31-lap race will be in the afternoon.

The drivers' tension rises in the busy schedule.

Makino in GrpA went on-track with used tires and did check-runs. Then, he started to attack with new tires with 5 min and 30 sec remaining. Renewing his best times in Sec1 and Sec2, he recorded 1 min 36 seconds alone to move onto QF2 in first.

Otsu in GrpB also went on-track with used tires to get the feeling of his car as soon as the QF began. He returned on-track with new tires in the last 5 min.

After warming the tires carefully, he started to attack, however, could not go fast in the anterior half section. Even though he recovered in Sec4, he finished QF in 8th.

In QF2, the top 12 drivers from QF1 competed.

Makino adjusted the QF1 set-up slightly.

In the attack lap following a one-lap warm-up run, he shortened his QF1 time. However, since his rivals had shortened theirs much more, he ended up in 6th.



DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING

Team Release

#5: Tadasuke Makino Position 6th (QF1 GrpA 1st, QF2 6th) 4th among Honda users

I had a good feeling about my car during QF1, and made it to QF2 first. We figured out that the set-up would work in QF2, too, even if the surface condition was improved, so I went into QF2 barely changing it. I had a certain response and could shorten my best time, but my competitors did better jobs. I finished in 6th, however, in the afternoon race, I will start from the 3rd row where I have a good chance of finishing in the top group. I will concentrate on the race today.

#6: Hiroki Otsu Position 16th (QF1 GrpB 8th) 10th among Honda users

My car didn't go as I expected and I couldn't get enough grip from the tires. I couldn't quicken my pace especially in Sec1 and Sec2, thus I couldn't make it to QF2. The time is limited before the race, but I am trying to solve the problems with my team. I will start from the rear, but I will make a good start first, and push really hard to finish in the top group.



DDCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING

Team Release

Race Report

2022/10/29 Rd-9 SUZUKA circuit

Weather: Fine Temperature: 22°C, 21cars

Audience: 6,800/29th (Sat.)

JAF Grand Prix, the last 7th event of the 2022 season, adopted a 2-race format, Rd9 on Saturday and Rd10 on Sunday. Right after a thrilling QF, a race started. No refueling and mandatory tire change was still applied to this event.

It was bright and clear with a temperature of 22 degreeC at Suzuka Circuit.

The tail wind blowing on Main Straight was getting stronger in the afternoon.

Makino who had raised his position at the start lost down force during skirmish in S Corner, and dropped his position.

Otsu made an excellent start and overtook three cars, and drove in 13th on the opening lap.

On L10 when the pit-stop window opened, the team watched movements of the competitors around their drivers, and decided to call in Makino, who was renewing his best time, on L11.

On the other hand, Otsu, whose front vision was cleared because the car ahead made a pit-stop at this moment, came into the pits on L12. Both of them returned on-track without mistakes.

From the middle stage to the final stage of the race, Makino actually in 6th and Otsu in 10th kept pushing hard to reduce the time margin to the stay-out group.

In the end, Makino finished the race in 7th and Otsu did in 13th.



DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING *Team Release*

#5: Tadasuke Makino Position 7th (5th among Honda users)

Although I made a good start, bad positioning and a little confusion caused me to drop my position.

The pit-stop timing and the strategy was good. However, I couldn't shorten the difference of lap pace between the top group and me, so I couldn't raise my position.

Tomorrow, we have QF and a race for Rd10. I will examine today's result with my team to make it up tomorrow.

#6: Hiroki Otsu Position 13th (8th among Honda users)

I raised my position to 13th because I made a very good start. However, the condition of not getting enough tire grip during the QF did not change in the race either.

Especially, I couldn't increase the minimum speed in middle-speed corners, and lost time a lot. It was a tough race.

I will make use of this result for tomorrow's QF and a race, after working on the problems with my team. I will shift my emotional gears positively for tomorrow.



DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING

Team Release

Qualifying Report

2022/10/30 Rd-10 SUZUKA circuit

Weather : Fine Temperature : 17°C 21cars

The 7th event of 2022 Super Formula, JAF Grand Prix, adopted a 2-race format, Rd9 on Saturday and Rd10 on Sunday.

Makino in GrpA went on-track with used tires for check runs.

Then, he started to attack with new tires in the last 5 min.

He renewed his best time in Sec1 and 2, and just like yesterday, he recorded 1 min and 36 seconds alone for QF2 first.

Otsu in GrpB, who was trying to get his second wind, went on-track with used tires as soon as QF started, and had a good feeling about his car.

Wearing new tires, he went for an attack with 5 min remaining.

His time was inside Makino's time in GrpA, and he moved on to QF2 in second.

The top 12 drivers competed in QF2.

Both drivers chose the set-up considering surface condition change, and went on-track 1 min and 30 sec after QF2 started.

Makino marked a good time in Sec1, however, lost time in Sec3 and finished in 10th. Otsu, even though he shortened his own time in QF1, came in close 3rd.

#5: Tadasuke Makino Position 10th (QF1 GrpA 1st, QF2 10th) 6th among Honda users

Continuing from yesterday, I had a very good feeling about my car, and I made it to QF2 first. For QF2, we predicted the surface condition change and adjusted the set-up.

I had a certain response in Sec1 and Sec2, but it wasn't effective in Sec3.

So, I ended up in 10th. I will fight tenaciously in the afternoon race to finish in the top group.

#6: Hiroki Otsu Position 3rd (QF1 GrpB 2nd, QF2 3rd) 2nd among Honda users

To make up for the bad showing yesterday, we had a meeting till late and finished my car.

I had an amazing feeling from the start, and also had good tire grip.

I am glad I finished QF in second. My set-up adjustment for QF2 worked, so I could give my all in the attack, although I couldn't reach the leader.

I will go for the win!



Race Report

2022/10/30 Rd-10 SUZUKA circuit

Weather: Fine Temperature: 21°C, 21cars

Audience: 6,800/29th (Sat.) 10,000/30th (Sun) TOTAL 16,800

The 7th event of 2022 Super Formula, JAF Grand Prix, adopted a 2-race format, Rd9 on Saturday and Rd10 on Sunday.

Otsu, who had started from the third position, overtook one car at the start and went into 1 Corner in second. On the other hand, Makino dropped one position down.

Right after they passed, a car went off-track in 1 Corner, and the safety car came in to collect it.

The race was restarted on L3. Recording 1 min 41 seconds, which was his second best time, Otsu chased Nojiri ahead, however, could not narrow the gap to him. When the pit-stop window opened on L10 during this deadlock situation, the team called in Makino first, and then Otsu on L11.

Both drivers returned onto the track without any troubles.

Soon after their pit-stops, on L13, a crash occurred in Chicane.

The safety car came in for the second time, and the stay-out group came into the pits in unison.

Otsu pushed hard as close as the SC line to undercut Nojiri in the lead, but in vain. He stayed in second, and at this point, Makino was driving in 10th.

After the race was restarted on L18, Otsu went after the leader, keeping 1 min 40 seconds pace, however, could not narrow the gap again.

Makino, who was fighting the fierce battle in the middle group, raised one position up to the 9th on L20. He kept pushing and tried to overtake the car ahead in Chicane, however he failed.

Both drivers chased their preceding cars with all their might until the last lap. In the end, Otsu finished the final race in second on the podium, and Makino did in 9th.



DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING

Team Release

#5: Tadasuke Makino Position 9th (5th in 2022 Drivers' Standings)

In spite of topping in QF1, I couldn't shorten my time in QF2, and I had to start from the middle in both rounds. If we can't do well in QF2, it is hard to overtake competitors even though we drive at a good pace.

In the first place, my pace wasn't good today, so it was a frustrating race.

In this season, my speed increased race by race, however, I needed one more push.

There remained a lot of issues, which I have to face in order to step up for the next season. And I will!

#6: Hiroki Otsu Position 2nd (9th in 2022 Drivers' Standings)

Focusing on the start, I passed one car and became 2nd place.

I chased Nojiri then, but I was no match for him at first. I had a chance at the second safety car situation, however, I couldn't make use of it.

Although I couldn't win, I mounted on the podium for the first time this season.

I hope I have a little requited the team crews who supplied the best environment for me, co-operated companies and the fans who supported me all through the season.

I will do my best again to become faster and stronger next season.