

ARTA



Jun 3, 2024

ARTA Race Report Round 3 Suzuka

■ June 1st, 2024 (Sat): #8 Qualifying Report

Though #8 ARTA MUGEN CIVIC TYPE R-GT lost time due to a car going in front which slid off the track, they won 4th place in Q2

Since regrettably #8 could not complete the previous race, the team switched their minds and got ready for Suzuka round. Compared to the rivals, success weight of #8 was much less then, there is a chance to catch up them.

They recorded the 4th fastest time in the morning free practice. Car balance seemed good.



It was Nobuharu Matsushita who took the wheel in Q1 in the afternoon. When about 2 minutes passed after the session started, the cars came out on the track one by one. #8 ARTA MUGEN CIVIC TYPE R-GT also appeared last of all with only 5 minutes left. He started attacking after warming up run.

Matsushita recorded the second fastest time and Nojiri took over in Q2.

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Nojiri also waited as much as possible for Q2 and appeared on the track when 5 mins 15 seconds remained. After two warming-up runs, he tried time attack. When Nojiri entered the S-curve, the car going in front slid off the track and Nojiri lost time and moved down to 8th grid position in Q2. But 4th place in the total ranking, and they would start from the second row of the grid tomorrow to win the race.



Director: Aguri Suzuki

Nojiri was unlucky since the car going in front of him spun. I wonder without such a trouble which position Nojiri was able to get. I had better not think about that, though. Since we can start from the second row of the grid, which is a chance for us, we simply switch our minds and prepare for tomorrow.



Executive Advisor: Keiichi Tsuchiya

Even though the car going in front spun, they won the 4th place in the total ranking. Considering the race distance tomorrow, they have a chance to stand on the podium.



Director: Hirokatsu Tanaka

I expected that the team could win the pole position but in reality, could not make it. Car balance in the morning was not as good as we thought, but we changed the car set-up dramatically and could get a better direction. I believe if we could have adjusted the car set-up in the morning, we could go furthermore. We will do our best anyway tomorrow.

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Driver: Tomoki Nojiri

I could not show my best performance due to the car spinning in front of me. But we could win the 4th place anyhow, which gives us a chance or luck for tomorrow. I am afraid condition tomorrow would be unstable then would like to surely concentrate on my driving.



Driver: Nobuharu Matsushita

I could not do well in the free practice, then thought a lot to make a strategy and, which worked well, I mean, we got a good direction from it, and which was good for us. We won the 2nd place in Q1 but due to a car sliding off the track during time attack in Q2 then finished the Q2 with 4th place as the result, which is a little disappointing. Since we still have potentials and the race lasts 3 hours tomorrow and we can start the race from the 4th position, we still have a chance. I would really like to win the race.

■ June 2nd, 2024 (Sun): #8 Race Report

Following the previous race, again something was wrong with the drive system parts. The team declared for fixing everything before the Rd. 4 Fuji to surely win the next race

Weather forecast previous day had said that it would rain in the race. In reality, it was cloudy from the morning in Suzuka. Judging from a weather forecast device, it looked like raining in the end of the race, though. But just before warming-up run, it started to rain then #8 appeared on the track with rain tires, but the driver reported that the road surface of the west course was dry then the team could not confirm the set of tires for the race, but simply peeled the tires' surface.

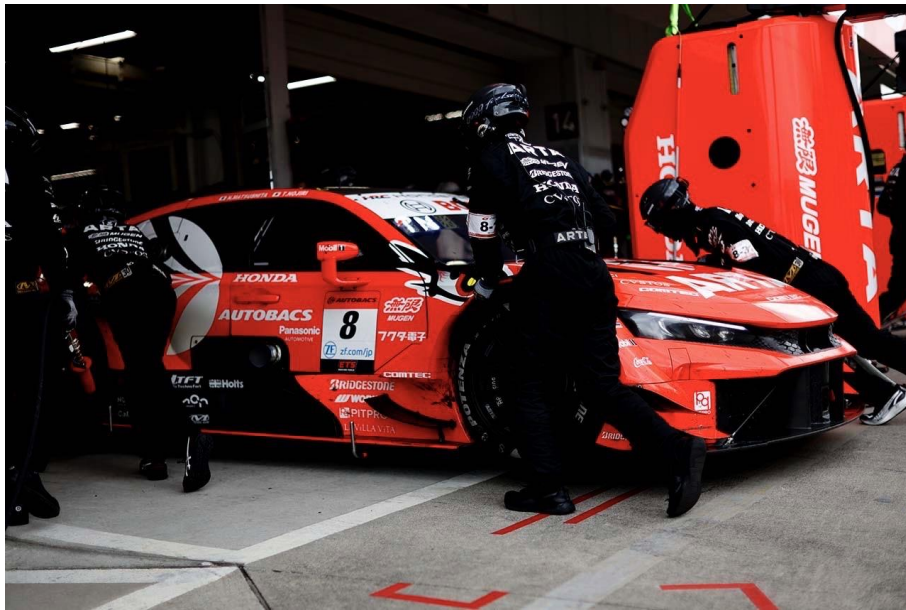


Weather was recovering and when the race started the road surface got dry completely. Nobuharu Matsushita took the wheel as the first driver. He made a clean start and kept

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4th position over some laps. At 5th lap the teammate #16 moved down to 3rd position and tried to catch up with the car in front nose-to-tail. They fought so hard that they bumped each other at the second corner. #16 took a routine pit stop and grabbed 3rd position at 24th lap.

Matsushita took a routine pit stop at 33rd lap and Nojiri took over. When all the cars finished pit stop at 36th lap, #8 ran in 8th position which means the team can score points if the race ends then. When the car behind entered the chicane of the 41st lap, the car could not stop and dove into the car in 7th position. Matsushita moved up one position but due to the collision, FCY was declared.



The race restarted at 42nd lap. Matsushita could not throw gear and came back to the pit on 45th lap. It took time to repair it and he delayed for a lap. When the top runner was about to finish 59th lap, repairment of #8 was completed and Matsushita went back to the track for a check-up but had to come back to the pit and had no choice but to retire the race. The team needs to prepare the car firmly for the next race Fuji since they have two months to go.



Director: Aguri Suzuki

I feel regretful for the fans and sponsors supporting us for troubles in the previous and this race in a row. We will review the race to get a result in the next race.



Executive Advisor: Keiichi Tsuchiya

What is wrong with #8? No lacks? No fortunes? Troubles occur in every race and drivers had no choice but to retire the race. I feel sorry for them. We anyway review the race and need to get ready for the next round.

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Director: Hirokatsu Tanaka

Regrettable result, DNF for #8. Another trouble of drive system parts, a different part this time, though. Since drivers showed their good performance, I feel so regretful for it. We need to analyze this trouble back home and need to prepare the car not to let another trouble happen.



Driver: Tomoki Nojiri

Disappointedly we gained no points in the previous and this race in a row. I have no choice but to do my best. I feel sorry but please keep on supporting us.



Driver: Nobuharu Matsushita

Pace itself was not bad. It is a pity not to be able to score any points. Our position in the race was not bad every time, but we could not gain any points every time. Drivers and team members need to look back on our performance and have a keen eye on basic aspects of the race to avoid such troubles anymore. We have enough spare time until next round. We have no choice but to win the next round since our car is fast and successful weight is not much. We will do our best.

*Contents of this race report including all pictures are provided by ARTA.

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June 3, 2024

ARTA Race Report

Round 3 Suzuka

■ June 1st, 2024 (Sat): #16 Qualifying Report

#16 ARTA MUGEN CIVIC TYPE R-GT will start from 2nd position owing to brilliant performance of the two drivers

Though #16 could not score the point in the 2nd round Fuji, car balance this time was good and the team recorded the fastest time in the morning session. Atmosphere among the team is good and drivers are settled.



It was Ren Sato who took in charge in Q1. He waited as much as possible for other competitors appearing on the track and came out on the track when only 5 and half mins left. He tried time attack after warm-up run. The timing monitor indicated that #16 was in 2nd position but then was overtaken by two cars and finished Q1 in 4th place.

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Hiroki Otsu took the wheel in Q2 and appeared on the track when 5 and half minutes left till the session ended. He tried time attack after 2 warm-up runs. He recorded the 3rd fastest time and got 2nd place in the total ranking in Q2. He will start his race from the front row of the grid tomorrow to win the race.



Director: Aguri Suzuki

I believe they keep a good pace on average. Car balance is stable. The car winning the pole position was too fast. Since we still have enough chance, please look forward to the result tomorrow.



Executive Advisor: Keiichi Tsuchiya

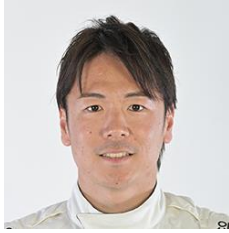
Since both drivers of #16 recorded the fast time, they won the 2nd place. We have no choice but to win the race. I am confident that we can show the fans the exciting race, for sure, possibly one-two finish.



Director: Hirokatsu Tanaka

Thanks to the car balance we adjusted before the race week, we could record the top time in the morning session. I expected better result in the qualifying, but not really. We will do our best in the race tomorrow.

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Driver: Hiroki Otsu

I believe I could maximize our potential but due to time gap between the top and us in Q1 and the fact that I could not shorten that gap in Q2, we could not show the best result, which was so disappointing since I surely tried my best.



Driver: Ren Sato

The car set-up was fixed from the official practice session, but the circumstances and conditions changed a lot in the afternoon. I was in charge of Q1 and could compete with the car in the 2nd position. Owing to Otsu's good attack, I could win the 2nd position in the end. The top was too fast anyway. Since Suzuka is home track for Honda, I would like to win the race somehow.

■ June 2nd, 2024 (Sun): #16 Race Report

**Though the team stood on the podium, their speed was not enough.
#16 will aim for higher goals**

It started to rain before the warming-up run. As was the case with Suzuka, it did not rain in the west course then we could not confirm the set of tires for the race, but simply peeled the tires' surface. Hiroki Otsu took the wheel of #16 as the first driver.

Otsu drove the car just behind the top and passed the straight in 2nd position. The top was so fast that the gap between them gradually widened. On the contrary the car going in the 3rd position came close and overtook #16 at the 3rd corner of the 5th lap. Otsu moved down to 3rd position.



And then the teammate #8 tried to catch up with #16 and at the 2nd corner of the 21st lap, they competed quite closely. At the 24th lap #16 took a routine pit stop and Ren Sato took over. He came back to the track in 13th position. But the competitor overtook him. Then Sato overtook the car at the 2nd corner of the 32nd lap. When all the cars finished their routine pit-in, #16 was 3rd position at the 36th lap.

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One car contacted the other car at the chicane of the 41st lap, and FCY was declared. After all the debris were removed, the race restarted at 42nd lap.



One GT300 car stopped at the hairpin curve of the 52nd lap and FCY was declared. The race restarted at 54th lap. #16 then kept the same pace as the top 2 cars for a while. At 61st lap #16 took the 2nd pit stop and Otsu took over the final stint. At 64th lap all the cars finished pit stop and Otsu was in 3rd position at this point.

At 70th lap the top car got a drive-through penalty due to pit work violation and #16 moved up to 2nd position.

But the car receiving the penalty was so fast that it came close to and overtook #16 at the chicane of 77th lap.

After that #16 suffered from car balance but kept 3rd position and successfully stood on the podium.



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Director: Aguri Suzuki

It is good to stand on the podium, but the pace was not good enough. Since we aim for winning the race, we need to boost up our performance. We need come together to find out how we can boost up our performance and would like to win the race.



Executive Advisor: Keiichi Tsuchiya

We are the top among Hondas, but in 3rd place leaving a huge gap between us and Toyotas. We have to increase the potential of the car, otherwise, we cannot compete Toyotas. We need somehow set up the car within two months to be able to compete with Toyotas with the burden of success weight or without.



Director: Hirokatsu Tanaka

We lost one position and finished the race and could stand on the podium somehow. Of course, our goal is to be a champion. Compared with other brands, we are still lacking speed. We need to try our best more and prepare for the next round.

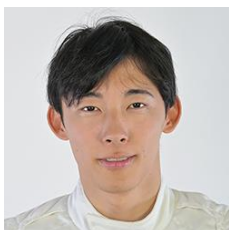


Driver: Hiroki Otsu

I took the wheel as the starting driver. The weather conditions were unstable before the race started. But once the race started, the road surface was dry then I was planning to overtake other cars in the beginning but had a tough time to do so then tried to catch up with them. The pace then was not good. But after Ren took over me, the pace got better and stable. Mechanics at the pit conducted their work without any troubles. I am really glad that we could stand on the

podium.

This is the first year for me and Ren to work as a pair. The result this time is quite good for our first step. But the race itself was not good enough. There are several points need to be fixed. I would like to do my best to win the next race.



Driver: Ren Sato

The race ended with 3rd place on the podium. I believe it a considerable progress to stand on the podium with earning points. But there are some points need to be improved and I myself am not satisfied with this race. I would like to regard the result in this race as at a step for the next race to figure out the strategy with team members for getting a better result.

*Contents of this race report including all pictures are provided by ARTA.