

# ARTA



Sep 24, 2024

## ARTA Race Report

### Round 6 Sugo

#### ■ September 21, 2024 (Sat): #8 Qualifying Report

**Qualifying was cancelled due to rough weather and tomorrow #8 will start the race from 12th position based on the result of the morning free session.**

Since the Rd.5 was postponed to this December due to typhoon, success weight and performance adjustment at the end of Rd. 4 would be applied for Rd.6 in Sugo.

It was expected to rain over this weekend and announced to the entrants that in case the qualifying session would be cancelled, the result of the free session could determine the grid position on Friday.



Though it rained a lot in the beginning of the Saturday's morning session, #8 ARTA MUGEN CIVIC TYPE R-GT could keep acceptable position but was having a tough time to make better time despite drizzling rain. In the end #8 went down to 12th position. Though the team was reconsidering the set for the afternoon session, the Saturday's qualifying session was cancelled because it started to rain heavily when the session was to start and was judged dangerous.

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As it was announced on Friday, the grid position was determined considering result of the free session. And then #8 ARTA MUGEN CIVIC TYPE R-GT started from 12th grid in the race. Since it is expected to rain tomorrow, the team needs to complete the race and wants to get higher results.



**Director: Aguri Suzuki**

I feel sorry for visitors cause the qualifying session was canceled due to rain. It was also very cold today. I cannot thank all the visitors enough. Thank you so much. #8 made a good start. We should have showed better time-attack when the rain was easing off. But first of all, time gap between the top and us is so huge that we need to work so hard tomorrow. The most important thing is completion of the race without any mistakes.



**Executive Advisor: Keiichi Tsuchiya**

Though the grid position was determined based on the result of morning free session, I am not disappointed at the position. Because weather conditions in the morning session was so unstable that the team could not simply find a chance. We will never give up and catch up with the rivals from the behind.



**Director: Hirokatsu Tanaka**

#8 made a good start but other rivals got faster lap by lap and could not made a better time. We need to adjust timing and setting, but first of all the time gap between the top and #8 is so huge that we need to readjust the car profoundly. We will never give up and try to get higher positions.

# ARTA



**Driver: Tomoki Nojiri**

It is indeed disappointing that the qualifying session was cancelled. Since most of visitors waited for the session in chilly weather, we wanted to show the qualifying session to them. Our result in the morning free session had not been good then we wanted to get better result in the qualifying, which was also disappointing for us. The race has not started yet. This race week has not ended yet. We would like to recover the position tomorrow.



**Driver: Nobuharu Matsushita**

It is I who took the wheel last in the morning free session and our result was as it was. But some troubles always occur here every year. I am expecting such troubles working good for us and will survive under such a condition to show impressive performance to aim for the podium.

## ■ September 22, 2024 (Sun): #8 Race Report

### #8 missed the timing for a pit stop and could not earn points

It rained from the morning and the supporting race was held lead by the safety car but was soon cancelled due to red flag. It rained so heavily during the warming up session. The session was delayed for 30 minutes. With an additional delay, the warming up session restarted an hour late.

The team tried to adjust the car setting late into the midnight. Matsushita the starting driver confirmed the setting during the warming up session. He was in 3rd position, and the setting could be evaluated good. But just before the race started, the rain stopped, and the team had a tough time adjusting for the conditions then. There still remained much water on the track and appearance of the safety car was announced.

After 2 formation laps the race started at the 3rd lap. Matsushita kept his position and came back to the straight but lost one position in the next lap and then moved up to 12th position owing to a car going in front which slid off the track at the first corner at 6th lap. He then was overtaken by the team mate at next lap but again kept 12th position thanks to a car going in front which lost a position. It started to drizzle at around 10th lap.

# ARTA



#8 got better position 10th at 12th lap, and 9th at 13th lap. But at the back straight at 15th lap Matsushita tried to overtake and then slid off the track and lost all the positions. Since there were no cars going in front of him, he could make as fast lap time as that of the top group.

GT300 cars contacted each other on 24th lap. A safety car appeared on the track and both cars were removed completely then the race restarted at 31st lap. Some of the carts started to take routine pit stop from the next lap and #8 kept 12th position. #8 moved up to 10th position within the points at 38th lap. The pace was good. At 40th lap #8 moved up 1 position.



After 40th lap the road surface was getting dry and most of the cars which had already taken routine pit stop adopted slick tires. But the road surface was not dry enough that many cars started to slide off the track and FCY was adopted. A safety car appeared on the track at next lap. Due to routine pit stop of other cars Matsushita was in 2nd position at this moment, though he had not taken a pit stop yet.

# ARTA

All the cars lined up according to the class on 46th lap and restarted the race at 49th lap. #8 overtook a car going in front at the first corner of 51st lap.

#8 took the routine pit stop at 54th lap and Nojiri took over the car. He came back to the track in 15th position and was recognized 1 lap behind at this moment. Though Nojiri kept his pace as fast as the top group, he could not take over other competitors. The team will focus on next race at AUTOPOLIS.



**Director: Aguri Suzuki**

Though Matsushita slid off the track, the main reason why we lost this race should be attributed to loss of pit stop timing. We should have simulated more. We need to make use of this experience to avoid same mistakes.



**Executive Advisor: Keiichi Tsuchiya**

Nobu (Matsushita) unusually made a mistake but did not lose many positions. He could have recovered. A car behind us at the start of the race won the race this time. That means we could have won the race even if our grid position was lower as it was. That is regrettable.



**Director: Hirokatsu Tanaka**

We could not show our best performance at all today. Pace of the car itself was not bad but we simply lost the timing of going out to the track and of pit stop then lost this race. Though two drivers tried their best, the team could not support them. We feel sorry for the drivers.



**Driver: Tomoki Nojiri**

The race ended with a disappointing result. We have no choice but to show our best performance at next race. I am afraid that there must be so many things which need improving. We have to figure out them, otherwise, we will repeat the same mistakes. We surely will improve such things to show the result with our efforts.



**Driver: Nobuharu Matsushita**

Though we started from the race from further behind due to the poor result of morning free session, the pace itself and choice of the tires were not bad. Pace of the car was getting better and better, but I slid off the track once and we lost the best chance to take a pit stop and a chance to win the race due to our improper decision along with involvement of FCY and safety car. Even at the second stint under dry conditions the pace did not improve. We should prioritize building a framework for making strategies rather than car setup for the next round.

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

# ARTA



September 24, 2024

## ARTA Race Report

### Round 6 Sugo

#### ■ September 21, 2024 (Sat): #16 Qualifying Report

**Qualifying session was cancelled and #16 will start from 13th position.  
The team would like to drive steadily to get a higher position**

Ren Sato energetically set an ideal time in beginning of the morning free session on Saturday in spite of the rain and left the possibility (for winning the race.)



But gradually rain was stopping and other cars set better times but #16 could not achieve a clear lap and ended up the session with 13th place. #16 reconfirmed the setup for the afternoon session, but due to heavy rain the qualifying session was judged to be cancelled.

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Because of it #16 ARTA MUGEN TYPE R-GT was assigned to start the race from the 13th grid position. Though the team has to start the race from further behind, they will never give up and get higher results.



**Director: Aguri Suzuki**

Ren (Sato) showed the best performance, and we expected good result, but other cars gradually were catching up with him. We might blame change of amount of the rainfall, but at the same time we could have made better time. We have no choice but to start the race from far behind. We should complete the race without any mistakes.



**Executive Advisor: Keiichi Tsuchiya**

Our position itself is not good, but when it rained a lot, our pace was good overall I still feel positive about the race. Of course we prefer starting from the front row, since here in Sugo some kind of troubles always happen, then there might be a chance for us. We will do our best anyway.

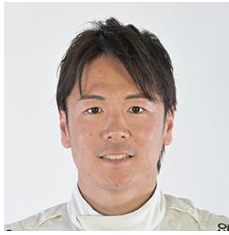


**Director: Hirokatsu Tanaka**

Performance in the morning was quite fine. But then we could not see any further progress and make a clear lap. I believe we could have made better time. We will start the race from almost the bottom position and the time gap between the top and #16 spreads so huge that we have no choice but to deal with the harsh race. We will never give up the race and catch up with other competitors one by one and

aim for better results.

# ARTA



**Driver: Hiroki Otsu**

Since the grid position was determined based on the result of morning free session, we will start the race from the 13th grid. It was a pity, but I wanted to drive in qualifying. I have no idea what the weather would be like but will catch up with other rivals one by one and want to stand on the podium.



**Driver: Ren Sato**

Qualifying was cancelled. The result of morning free session will reflect on the grid position tomorrow. I wanted to compete in the qualifying session formally. We will start the race from 13th grid but switch my mind and prepare a good strategy to overtake other competitors because conditions can be severe tomorrow.

## ■ September 22, 2024 (Sun): #16 Race Report

### Penalty was imposed due to contact but owing to tactical pit stop #16 could earn 1 point

During the warming-up session a GT300 car slid off the track and the session was cancelled due to red flag. The team could only checkup the car for the race. Its position was not good, but car balance was good.

We were concerned about when the rain from the morning would stop. Just before the warming-up session it started to drizzle, and the sun appeared just before the race started.

Hiroki Otsu took the wheel as the first driver. Though it stopped raining, road surface remained wet, and many puddles were recognized. The race started with the safety car and after 2 formation laps, the race got started on 3rd lap.

Otsu kept his position finishing 3 laps and drove steadily. He moved up to 11th position at 8th lap. Light rain was recognized at around 10th lap.



# ARTA

At 12th lap he moved up 1 position but due to contact at the second corner of 13th lap #16 spun and its position fell into the bottom. And then the teammate slid off the track and #16 moved up to 14th position at 15th lap. By 20th lap #16 moved up to 11th position, but at the second corner of 13th lap due to contact the penalty was imposed on #16.

GT300 cars contacted each other on 24th lap. A safety car appeared on the track and both cars were removed completely then the race restarted at 31st lap. Some of the carts started to take routine pit stop from the next lap and #16 kept 13th position. At around 40th lap the tires started to get worn and Ren Sato took over the wheel at 41st lap on the road surface started to get dry then Sato chose the slick tires and went out to the track. But so many cars slid off the track just after they left the pit then FCY was adopted, and a safety car appeared. #16 was in 14th position and was regarded 1 lap behind at this moment



All the cars lined up according to the class on 46th lap and restarted the race at 49th lap.

The road surface was getting dried gradually and Sato made a faster lap time, but gap still remained huge. He then succeeded moving up to 10th position within points at 61st lap, and then up to 9th position. He gained one to two seconds per one lap but could not make it, he successfully earned precious 1 point, though.



## **Director: Aguri Suzuki**

The pace itself was good then penalty due to contact was disappointing. Timing of the pit stop was good and there can be a chance for recovery. The result was disappointing, but we could still see the possibility in it.

# ARTA



**Executive Advisor: Keiichi Tsuchiya**

Contact might disturb the rhythm of the driver. But contrarily the team could be united due to it. But race itself was good enough to lead to next race. Of course, I feel regretful about the result and do not accept it as good one, but we will recover this loss.



**Director: Hirokatsu Tanaka**

Pace of drivers itself was not bad. Neither was selection of the tires. Contact at the second corner is to blame for today's result. Due to it #16 could not take a pit stop at the right moment then we expected recovery. Ren (Sato) drove at a fairly good pace in fact he earned 1 point, which was good under such a condition.



**Driver: Hiroki Otsu**

I started out in fully wet conditions. We chose the soft tires and after the tires got warmed, we would catch up with other cars. But at the first corner I stepped on the brake a bit too much and then contacted a GT300 car at the second corner since I could not see the car clearly. As a result, I was imposed with the drive-through penalty. I feel sorry for the team. I want to win the next race at AUTOPOLIS since weight of the car would be light.



**Driver: Ren Sato**

In the race we contacted other car and was imposed with a penalty. But owing to appearance of the safety car, margin disappeared then we adopted slick tires and could move up our position and somehow earned 1 point. Since our car had a high potential (for winning), we are disappointed at the result of the qualifying. But we somehow will recover for the latter half of the season to compete for the championship. I will prepare for it with my team members.

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