

# ARTA



Oct 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024

## ARTA Race Report Round 7 Autopolis

### ■ October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024 (Sat): #8 Qualifying Report

#### All events were canceled on Saturday due to harsh weather

After an interval of about one-month, SUPER GT arrived at Kyushu Autopolis. Races here are often held on clear autumn days, but on Saturday heavy rain fell from the morning, and the morning session was canceled. The weather did not improve in the afternoon, and the qualifying session was announced to be canceled, and a 30-minute qualifying session had been scheduled on Sunday morning.

The rain had stopped this morning, but there had been fog and concerns about whether qualifying would be held or not but qualifying in the end began on time.



Being unable to adjust the car-settings, #8 Matsushita started the afternoon session in 11th place.

The driver was Nobuharu Matsushita. The road surface was wet in places, and he entered the track with wet tires. He continued driving while making sure of the balance of the car. The road surface gradually began to dry, and at the end of the session he changed from wet to dry tires and challenged a time attack, but he was unable to adjust the car to the conditions well and finished the qualifying session in 11th place. The race will be held this afternoon, and then I would like to seize the opportunity to get better positions.

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**Director: Aguri Suzuki**

We ended up in an unexpected position. We can not give up here, so we will prepare to get as many points as possible in the race this afternoon.



**Executive Advisor: Keiichi Tsuchiya**

We could not fix the car settings. It is unfortunate that we ended up in the lower positions, but the race must be held in a different condition, so we will try our best to get to the front.



**Director: Hirokatsu Tanaka**

The condition today was as it was then it was difficult to select the tires. Nobu (Matsushita) tried his best but ended up in the lower position due to poor balance of the car. We will try our best to get to the front.



**Driver: Tomoki Nojiri**

It is unfortunate that we did not finish in a good position, but we did a good job as a team without making any mistakes. The race is long, so if we can finish without any mistakes, I think we can get better positions. We will do our best anyway.

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## **Driver: Nobuharu Matsushita**

I wanted to be in the top 5 but could not make it due to lack of something in our strategy of the qualifying session. However, I think there must still be some chances of the long-distance race. I will change my mindset and try my best.

## **■ October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024 (Sun): #8 Race Report**

### **Painful penalty due to radio trouble, everything needs to be rebuilt for the next race**

The temperature at Autopolis this morning was so low that you could sometimes see the driver's breath coming out of his mouth. The team prepared the car for the warm-up run before the start. Although in the warm-up session we could not measure one full lap, the sector time was the same as that of the top driver. The balance of the car also looks good.

The starting driver was Nobuharu Matsushita. After the parade lap and formation lap, the race started. Matsushita got a clean start but lost his balance just before the final corner of the first lap and dropped to the back of the pack.

From the top to the back of the pack, all the cars completed laps at the same lap time. It was a difficult situation to overtake the car in front.



On the 22nd lap, a 500-class car went off the track, and an FCY was declared. The pits were closed during the FCY, and if anyone entered, they would be penalized. Before the FCY, the routine pit-in sign was displayed on the signboard, but on the next lap, Matsushita tried to enter the pits, so the team instructed him not to do so over the radio, but Matsushita entered the pit anyway. There seemed to be a radio problem. The team did not do anything and just let the car return to the track.

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The FCY was lifted, and the SC appeared. After the car was removed, the race restarted on the 28th lap. #8 ARTA MUGEN CIVIC TYPE R-GT made a routine pit stop on the 30th lap, and Nojiri Tomoki took over the car. A radio check was conducted on the out-lap, but it seemed there was no radio connection between the car and the pit. Nojiri returned to the track in 14th position, but by the 36th lap he had come back to the same 11th position in the qualifying.

On the 37th lap there was contact between two 500 class cars, and one of them went off the track. The SC appeared. At this point he was in 10th position.



The race restarted on the 42nd lap, however, a penalty was given for the pit stop during the FCY, and a 60-second pit stop was imposed. The penalty was served till the 44th lap, and Nojiri returned to the track. Nojiri was in the 13th position.

On the 61st lap another car went off the track and the SC was deployed again. After the car was removed, the race restarted on the 67th lap.

On the 71st lap Nojiri made a routine pit stop and was handed over to Matsushita. He returned to the track in 12th position.

On lap 86, a 300-class car crashed, and the FCY was deployed, followed by the SC.

It took time to remove the car, and the checkered flag was dropped with the SC was still in place.

Unfortunately, he was not able to gain any points, but his good pace in the final stages of the race set the stage for the next race.

It is becoming more difficult to win the championship, but the team wants to have good races and results in the two remaining races.



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**Director: Aguri Suzuki**

Things are not going well. Qualifying was bad, but the car was in good shape for the race, but it did not translate into good results. A lot of things happened in this race; we need to increase our repertoire of methods to deal with such things. I do not want such things to happen again in the remaining races, though.



**Executive Advisor: Keiichi Tsuchiya**

Radio trouble is something that happens very rarely, but there is no point complaining about it. We need to prepare for such an accident. The pace was not bad. I feel sorry for the drivers. We had a good experience, so we want to focus on getting good results in the remaining two races.



**Director: Hirokatsu Tanaka**

We had some radio trouble early on and were not able to communicate with the driver. As a result, we took a pit stop during the FCY by mistake, which resulted in a penalty, and I am really sorry to the fans who supported us. We did not do well in the race, but the car had speed, so we would like to challenge the remaining two races with confidence and determination.



**Driver: Tomoki Nojiri**

It is unfortunate that we ended up with such a bad result, but the pace of my stint was very good, so I will not give up and keep on fighting with all my strength from the next race onwards. I am confident that the car had good performance this weekend, but it did not translate into results, which is disappointing and frustrating. I would like to use this disappointment as a springboard to fight in the next race as a unified team.



**Driver: Nobuharu Matsushita**

The radio was surely broken, but I am afraid the main reason we lost this race was because I mistakenly entered the pits during the FCY and received a 60-second penalty. I feel really sorry for the team. I will focus on the next race at Motegi and make up for it.

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

# ARTA



Oct 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024

## ARTA Race Report Round 7 Autopolis

### ■ October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024 (Sat): #16 Qualifying Report

#### All events were canceled on Saturday due to harsh weather

After an interval of about one-month, SUPER GT arrived at Kyushu Autopolis. Races here are often held on clear autumn days, but on Saturday heavy rain fell from the morning, and the morning session was canceled. The weather did not improve in the afternoon, and the qualifying session was announced to be canceled, and a 30-minute qualifying session had been scheduled on Sunday morning.

The rain had stopped this morning, but there had been fog and concerns about whether qualifying would be held or not but qualifying in the end began on time.



Car-setup is done, and we will aim for the top spots from 6th position onwards.

In the early stages, the conditions were wet, so the team started out on rain tires. The driver was Hiroki Otsu. As the road gradually began to dry, the team changed from wet to dry tires and checked the set. The team then tried a time attack on the second set of dry tires. The sector time was good, but the team was caught up with the teammate, #8, who was driving slowly, and was not able to achieve the best time. However, the team managed to record the sixth fastest time, putting them in a good position to win. The team will aim to win the race in the afternoon.

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**Director: Aguri Suzuki**

We made a mistake in the timing of putting both cars out. It was a miscommunication, so we have to make sure that this does not happen again in the race. But the car is in good condition, and we are not in a bad position, so we will do our best to win.



**Executive Advisor: Keiichi Tsuchiya**

Even though we got stuck in #8, that time was commendable. We would like to win somehow.



**Director: Hirokatsu Tanaka**

The balance of the car was good, but we got caught up with #8 on the final attack, and I feel bad for the driver. However, the car was fast, so we will adjust for the race and fight for the podium.



**Driver: Hiroki Otsu**

The conditions were difficult as the positions kept changing. When we started, the conditions were not rainy, so we changed to slicks. We had two sets of tires, so when we ran with the first set, we felt like we could get into the top positions. I wanted to get a little higher. I will start the race from the sixth position and do my best to win.

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## Driver: Ren Sato

After the 30-minute qualifying session, I am to start the race from the 6th position. The car had great potential, but I got stuck behind the car in front on my final attack, which is why I ended up in this position. The race looks good and then I will do my best for the podium.

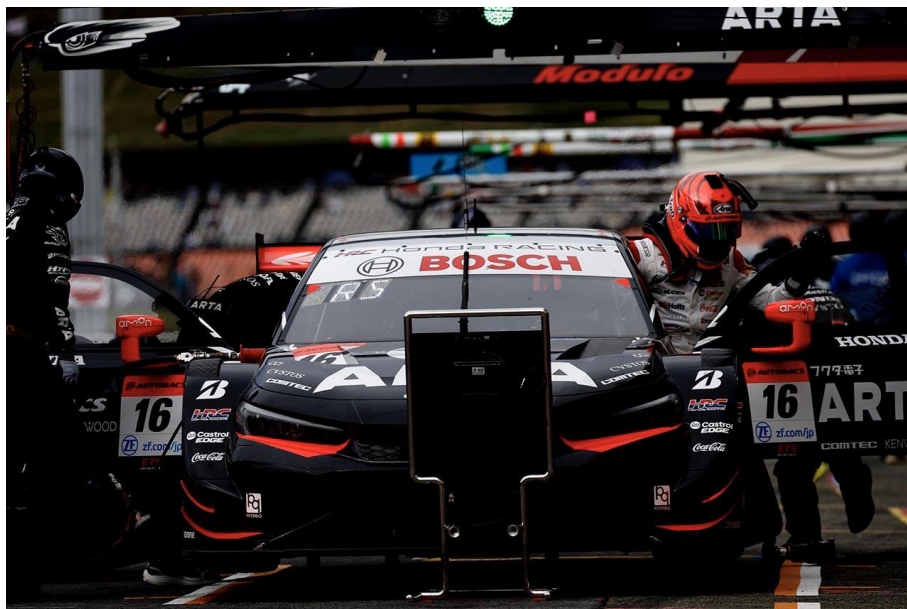
## ■ October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024 (Sun): #16 Race Report

**Although we were at the mercy of the FCY and SC, the car itself was good then we look forward to the next race**

Ren Sato, who did not drive in the morning qualifying, was in charge of the warm-up session before the start of the race. Sato began his attack while checking the balance of the car. The balance seemed good, and he marked the top time. He finished his run without any trouble and waited for the start.

The starting driver was Sato. After the parade lap and formation lap, the race started. Sato returned from the first lap in 5th position. On the 18th lap he was hit by a car behind and dropped to the 7th position.

On the 22nd lap a 500-class car went off the track and an FCY was announced. It took a long time to remove the car, then the SC appeared instead. Once the car was removed, the race restarted on the 28th lap.



Sato got off to a good start and overtook the car in front. Some teams made routine pit stops at the restart, and Sato returned in 5<sup>th</sup> position. He provisionally took the lead on the 35<sup>th</sup> lap, but made a routine pit stop the following lap and was replaced by Hiroki Otsu.

On the 37th lap, there was contact between two 500 class cars, one of which went off the track and the SC was deployed. At this point, he was running in 9th position.

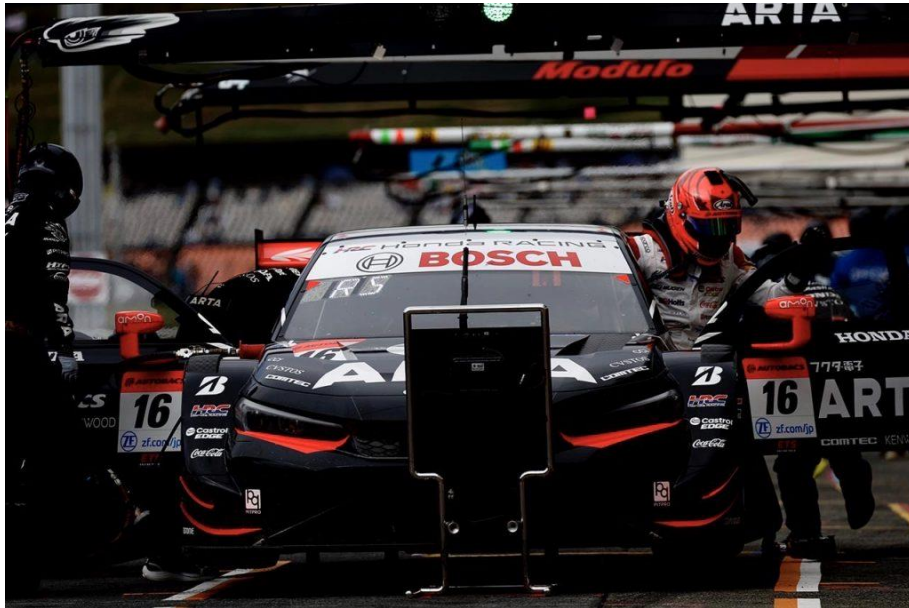


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The race restarted on the 42nd lap, but Otsu had dropped significantly in the 44th lap and was running in 12th position.

He also spun out at the second hairpin on the 46th lap. There was no contact and he was able to return to the track.

His pace was good, and by the 50th lap, he had moved up to 10th position in scoring position. On the following lap, he moved up to 9th position.



Due to a penalty for the car in front, he moved up to 8th position on the 55th lap. He made his second pit stop on the 58th lap. There was no driver change, and Otsu continued driving. On the 61st lap, another car went off the track. The SC was deployed again. At this point, he was in 10th position. After the car was removed, the race restarted on the 67th lap. With other cars making routine pit stops, he moved up to 5th position. On the 72nd lap he lost one position.

On the 86th lap, a 300-class car crashed, and the FCY was deployed, after which the SC appeared. It took time to remove the car, and the checkered flag was dropped with the SC still in place.

In a race with many accidents, the team was able to finish its race in 6th place without getting into any trouble.

The team hopes to win the remaining two races.



## **Director: Aguri Suzuki**

There were so many FCY and SC situations this time. The balance of the car was good, and we were on pace to aim for the podium, so it is a bit frustrating. But I am afraid it was a very difficult race. I want to analyze this race well and use what I learned for the remaining two races to win.

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**Executive Advisor: Keiichi Tsuchiya**

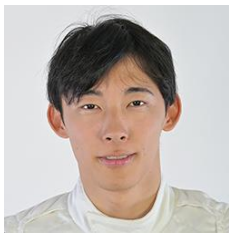
Both Otsu and Ren did a great job. There were some mistakes, but the car is ready to give us hope for the next race. The result itself is frustrating and there are some disappointing aspects, but it was a race that gives us hope. I am looking forward to the next one.

**Director: Hirokatsu Tanaka**

The pace was good, but we spun and lost positions. We managed to recover from that, but it was difficult to move up the positions. The car is in good condition now, so I hope we can somehow translate that into a good result in the next race.

**Driver: Hiroki Otsu**

I did two stints this time, but there were a lot of FCYs and SCs, so it was a very difficult race. I thought I was keeping my concentration, but I made a mistake and dropped one position. The car was well-balanced enough to aim for the podium, so it is unfortunate that I was not able to make good use of that, but I think we can look forward to the remaining two races. First of all, I will switch my focus to the next race at Motegi and continue preparing so that I can achieve good results.

**Driver: Ren Sato**

I finished the race in 6th place. I overtook one car in the early stages, but I could barely keep up with the front. In the second half, after the SC came on, my pace was very good and I thought I could do well, but there were some difficult parts, and I could not improve my position. I was able to see some areas where I needed to improve the balance of the car, so I would like to continue preparing for the next race at Motegi.

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