

ARTA



Nov 5th, 2024

ARTA Race Report Round 8 Motegi

■ November 2nd, 2024 (Sat): #8 Qualifying Report

Although #8 did not get a good time in the morning session, it took second place in the qualifying session for the first time in a while

At Round 6 SUGO and Round 7 AUTOPOLIS, qualifying was cancelled due to heavy rainfall, and here at Motegi, it rained heavily from the morning. The morning session was frequently interrupted by red flags, and all the teams struggled with time attack. #8 ended the session in 14th place. Qualifying results are determined based on the combined time of Q1 and Q2.



It was Tomoki Nojiri who took the wheel in Q1. Since he had not been able to make a proper time attack in the morning, it was unknown how good a time he would be able to achieve in the Q1, but Nojiri recorded the third fastest time. He handed it over to Nobuharu Matsushita in Q2.

Matsushita overran scarily during his time attack but tried the attack again on the next lap.

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He dealt with his lap well enough to record the second fastest time. The team would like to take second win in this season tomorrow.



Director: Aguri Suzuki

We prepared for rain all day, but it kept on raining without getting weak. We were so concerned if the spectators could enjoy watching the qualifying session. But we luckily held the qualifying session somehow. I would like to show my gratitude to the spectators who came to watch the qualifying in the rain. We were not able to conduct the session properly in the morning, but I was relieved that we were able to set the second fastest time in qualifying. We would like to win the race

somehow tomorrow. We are in such a position to do so. We will do our best.



Executive Advisor: Keiichi Tsuchiya

Both drivers did an excellent job. The team built a good car. From this position, I believe we can win the race for the second time this season.



Director: Hirokatsu Tanaka

Last time at Autopolis we could not compete in qualifying due to the rain, but today we had a qualifying session for the first time in a while, and I think #8 did an excellent job in this rain. The engineers and the drivers made a really good car, and although we were not able to catch up with the time of the top car, we still got the second fastest time and in a good enough position to win tomorrow. We will do our best.

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Driver: Tomoki Nojiri

In qualifying I was second in terms of combined time, which puts me in a very good position to win tomorrow. I really wanted to win at all costs this weekend and fight hard in the final race to keep my chances of winning the championship alive, then tomorrow I want to win the race at any cost and come back home.



Driver: Nobuharu Matsushita

I was concerned that the qualifying would be canceled due to rain. I am really glad that both Q1 and Q2 were held somehow. We had a lot of things to reflect on and fixed in the car last time at Autopolis, so the car was good, and I am certain that I was able to adjust my driving. It will be completely different weather condition; dry I believe tomorrow. I have no idea how the balance will be in the free practice, but since we

will be starting from a good position and our race pace is not bad, I definitely want to win the race.

■ November 3rd, 2024 (Sun): #8 Race Report

**Although we finished in second place,
the team and the driver did a really excellent job**

Today's weather: sunny and autumnal at Motegi has been totally different from yesterday's. This race was supposed to be the final, but because the fifth race at Suzuka was postponed to December due to severe weather, this race was held as the seventh race. Therefore, the success weight was not zero but was cut in half for all the cars.

The starting driver was Nobuharu Matsushita. He made a clean start and maintained his position till the end of the first lap. On the seventh lap, a 300-class car stopped on the side of the track, which resulted in a FCY, and the race restarted on the following lap. At that time, Matsushita made a perfect start and jumped into the lead. On the ninth lap, another 300-class car stopped and another FCY was deployed, but on the restart, he dropped to third place.



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He was then overtaken on the downhill straight on the 15th lap, dropping to 4th position. He fought hard and managed to move up one position at the V-shaped corner on the 21st lap. He made a routine pit stop on the following lap and handed the car over to Tomoki Nojiri.

He returned to the track in 6th position. Other cars also made their routine pit stops, and he returned to the 3rd position. On the 45th lap the 300-class car went off the track at the first corner. The FCY was deployed, but it was cleared on the same lap and the race restarted.



Nojiri maintained his position, but from around the 50th lap, he got behind the car in front and passed it at the 3rd corner on the 53rd lap. He moved up to 2nd position. However, while fighting for 2nd position, the top got away and Nojiri was unable to catch up with it, but he still managed to take 2nd place on the podium.



Director: Aguri Suzuki

We were finally able to run properly. If we can get rid of the trouble, we confirm that we have the ability to be on the podium like this. The next race is the final then we want to set the crown on it. Again, I would like to emphasize that both drivers gave an impressive performance.



Executive Advisor: Keiichi Tsuchiya

As for the #8, both the team and the drivers did a wonderful job from the qualifying, but this is the current state of the Civic in this debut year. Our rivals are quite mature, and it is only our first year, I believe there still is room for improvement. The two drivers and the team worked hard, and we were able to get to the top of Honda and get on the podium in second place, of which I am really proud. They showed an excellent performance for sure.

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Director: Hirokatsu Tanaka

Of course I am not satisfied with the result, but both of drivers drove really well, so I am incredibly happy that we made it onto the podium more than anything, I am glad that we were able to have a race-like race this time. The drivers drove with all their might, and honestly speaking, I wanted to win, but I will take this result as a good thing and make use of it for the next race.



Driver: Tomoki Nojiri

Since I was aiming for the win, I am extremely disappointed at the result. It took me a little while to overtake, and I did my best, but I am afraid it would have been difficult to get a higher position than that, which makes me even more disappointed because I gave it my all. Unfortunately, I have lost my chance to win the championship, but I want the final race to be a race that will clear up this disappointment. I will try all my best again.



Driver: Nobuharu Matsushita

FCY was deployed during my stint, but I got off to a slow start during the second FCY and lost positions. I could not get past anyone after that, and I feel really sorry about that. If I had been able to run alone, I think the pace would have been different, and I feel like I might have been able to hold off the top, so I feel really sorry for the team. I should have eliminated mistakes, but I made another one, and I am really sorry

about that.

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

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Nov 5th, 2024

ARTA Race Report

Round 8 Motegi

■ November 2nd, 2024 (Sat): #16 Qualifying Report

#16 got caught in traffic both times and will be aiming for a higher position tomorrow from 6th place

Qualifying had been cancelled due to rain in the sixth and seventh races in a row, but this time at Motegi it also rained heavily from the morning, raising concerns about whether qualifying would be held. However, despite the rain, qualifying was somehow able to take place.



The balance of the car was good in the morning session, and Ren Sato finished the session in 4th place. The feeling was incredibly good, and Sato felt quite confident. Sato was in charge of Q1. The balance of the car was very good, but he got caught in traffic during the attack lap and ended up in 7th place.

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In Q2, Hiroki Otsu was in charge. He also got caught in traffic, and his combined time was 6th place.

However, the third row is not a bad position at all, and the balance of the car is also good, so I would like to do my best to aim for the win tomorrow.



Director: Aguri Suzuki

The driver is disappointed at the fact of finishing in 6th in qualifying, but there are no negative factors to take away from it. Of course, we need to drive without making any mistakes until the very end, but if we can drive well, I think the results will come. We will do our best.



Executive Advisor: Keiichi Tsuchiya

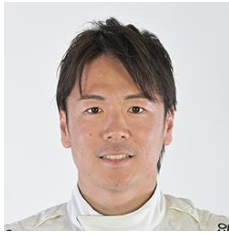
It was unfortunate for both of the drivers to get stuck in traffic. It must be frustrating, but we can move on and, since our car is fast, we will do our best to achieve a good result.



Director: Hirokatsu Tanaka

#16 car was not bad at all, but I had trouble getting into position and got stuck behind the car in front, which caused me to lose a lot of time. I thought we could have gotten a higher position, so it is a bit disappointing. Tomorrow we are in a position to aim for the top, so we will do our best to win.

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Driver: Hiroki Otsu

We had difficulty with the qualifying session, and our position was not good. When I thought I would be able to get the best time on my attack, I got stuck in the car in front. On the lap before that I also could not get a good position, so it is frustrating that I could not improve my time. I will start in 6th place tomorrow and I believe I will have a good chance then I would like to make a proper strategy to make up for it with the race pace.



Driver: Ren Sato

Qualifying is over. In Q1 we went on an attack with new tires, but we got stuck behind another car during the warm-up, and we could not fully warm up the tires before we started our attack. It was an incomplete qualifying. Otsu-san also got stuck in traffic in Q2 and we were not able to bring out the full potential of #16. We have a lot of potential, so even though the conditions will be different tomorrow, I will do my best and try to stand on the podium.

■ November 3rd, 2024 (Sun): #16 Race Report

#16 came close to third place towards the end of the race but finished in fourth place. It was a good learning experience for Ren Sato

Mobility Resort Motegi was blessed with clear autumn skies and the 8th race took place.

In the warm-up before the start, #16 ARTA MUGEN CIVIC TYPE R-GT recorded the top time, raising expectations for a powerful performance in the race.

The starting driver was Hiroki Otsu. There was no confusion at the start, and he maintained his position as he completed the laps. On the seventh lap, a 300-class car stopped on the side of the track, resulting in a FCY. The race restarted the following lap, but Otsu lost one position. On the ninth lap, another 300-class car stopped, resulting in another FCY, and the race restarted the following lap.



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Maintaining his position, Otsu made a routine pit stop on 22nd lap and handed over to Ren Sato. He came back to the track in 8th position.

The other cars also made routine pit stops, Sato moved up to 4th position.

On the 45th lap a GT-300 car went off the track at the first corner. The FCY was deployed, which was cleared on the same lap and the race restarted.



With around 10 laps remaining, Sato closed in on the third-place car, and at the third corner on the 59th lap, he cut into the inside of the car in front of him, briefly taking the lead, but was overtaken. He continued to try after that, but was unable to overtake, and finished the race in fourth place.



Director: Aguri Suzuki

Both of the drivers had good races. Ren was in a dead heat, but it was a good lesson in strategy. It is frustrating, but it was a race that will help us for the next race.



Executive Advisor: Keiichi Tsuchiya

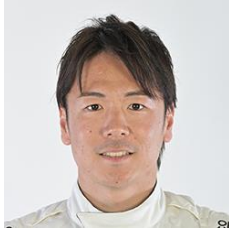
#16 started from 6th place and dropped to 7th, but Otsu held on, and Ren undercut during the pit stop, and moved up to 4th position, fought for 3rd, and finally finished in 4th place. However, Ren did an extremely excellent job with that tactic, and it was also a good learning race for him.

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Director: Hirokatsu Tanaka

#16 car showed really satisfactory performance. Up until now, there have been many races where #16 was being chased, but this time the team was able to really catch up with the others. It was disappointing that we just fell short of the podium, but it was an exciting race, and it was a good race that will lead to the next race.



Driver: Hiroki Otsu

I was in charge of the first stint and used softer tires compared to the other Hondas. It was going well from the beginning to the middle of the race, but it started to get a little tougher in the second half. I took a pit stop earlier and handed the car over to Ren, who was running on hard tires. My pace was fairly good, and I kept attacking when the car in front was slow. If I had had a chance, I could have overtaken other cars, but I am afraid that taking such one chance is one of the hardest

difficulties in this GT500 race. But Ren had a really great race. I am sure this race will help me move forward. I will do my best in the final race.



Driver: Ren Sato

In the race, I managed to catch up from 6th position and finished in 4th place. I successfully undercut during my stint and moved up to 4th position. I was saving my energy in the preliminary stages and then thought I would make a move at the end. I picked up the pace at the end and caught up with the car in front and a battle ensued, but I was not able to pull away and ended up in 4th place. It was a race that

taught me a lot in terms of tactics as well. Whether I am crying or laughing, the next race is the last one. I would like to prepare myself well so that I can get a good result in the final race.

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