

ARTA



Dec 9th, 2024

ARTA Race Report

Round 5 Suzuka

■ December 7th, 2024 (Sat): #8 Qualifying Report

#8 struggled on the straights then changed the engine despite the possibility to receive a penalty to get ready for the race tomorrow

The SUPER GT Round 5 Suzuka was originally to be held on September 1st but was postponed due to a typhoon and was rescheduled to be held in December. This is the first time that SUPER GT would be held in December. Due to the low temperature conditions, the matching of tires and road surface condition and the setup will play a key role.



In the morning session, the team worked on the setup for the race, and did not try a proper time attack. Though their position was in the back, the team made some adjustments to the setup for qualifying.

It was Nobuharu Matsushita who took the wheel in Q1. Since the temperature was low, he warmed up the tires properly and started his attack. Matsushita recorded the seventh fastest time and handed over Q2 to Tomoki Nojiri.

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Nojiri was expected to show his best performance but could only make the 13th fastest time. Looking at the driving data, he seemed not to show his speed in straight lines. Despite the possibility to receive a penalty, the team made a decision to change the engine to get ready for the race tomorrow



Director: Aguri Suzuki

We decided to change the engine, but it is not just the engine issue. We need to view the situation overall to prepare for a steady and fast run. We have won once this year and want to show a good performance in the last race of the season and get satisfactory results.



Executive Advisor: Keiichi Tsuchiya

I am glad that we could find the cause of our poor performance. All we can do is to catch up from behind. Since the setup for the race is progressing well, I believe we can expect a good result. After receiving the penalty, the result will depend on how much we can catch up. We will do our best.



Director: Hirokatsu Tanaka

During the morning free practice, #8 missed a chance to show their best performance to figure out their speed. But we were able to run at a good pace with used tires, so we had some expectations for qualifying, but unfortunately, we could not get the time we expected. There are some things we do not know the cause of, and it seems that the engine was not performing as well as it should, so Honda, the engine manufacturer, decided to replace the engine for the race, and we are afraid that was a factor in why we could not get a good time. It was a disappointing result, so we will do our best tomorrow.

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Driver: Tomoki Nojiri

In these cold conditions, I wondered which tires would suit the car best, but I did not pay so much attention to the tires and just worked on the setup. I felt like I was not getting the times I expected, and looking back at the data, I found out that I was losing a lot of time in the straight lines. I tried to improve them for qualifying but could not make it. I am disappointed at not being able to show my performance as I wanted to in terms of the time. I will make sure to prepare well for tomorrow.



Driver: Nobuharu Matsushita

From the start, things like the balance were not fixed, but since the previous race, I have been trying things differently from the others, and making fine adjustments to that, but it did not quite click in the qualifying. It might be strange to call it a good test, but I believe it gave us some data. Since there might be some concerns about the engine, I am not sure what will happen tomorrow, but I will do my best.

■ December 8th, 2024 (Sun): #8 Race Report

**Although #8 had to receive a penalty for changing the engine, the team was able to show the speed in this race.
#8 was not able to achieve satisfactory results this year but thanks for all the support throughout the season**

As the engine was replaced after yesterday's qualifying, a penalty such that the team must take a pit stop and stop at the exit of the pit road for 5 seconds was imposed. Naturally, the team will fall to the back of the pack, but the #8 ARTA MUGEN CIVIC TYPE R-GT's lap times during the warm-up were so good that it is expected that the team will be able to make a comeback in the race.

The starting driver was Tomoki Nojiri. After the parade lap, there were two formation laps before the start.



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Nojiri got off to a good start and moved up to 9th position by the first lap. On the third lap, he was given an engine change penalty and had to take a pit stop. After a five-second stop, he returned to the race but had dropped to the back of the pack. He recorded the fastest time overall and gradually closed the gap with the rest of the pack.

On the 10th lap, a 500-class vehicle and a 300-class vehicle collided at Degner, causing them to go off the track, and the FCY was announced.

After the vehicles were recovered, the race restarted on the 11th lap.

He completed laps equivalently comparable to those of the leading group, and made a routine pit stop on the 17th lap, handing the car over to Nobuharu Matsushita.



After all cars had completed their pit stops, #8 was in 14th position.

After that, he struggled to overtake the car in front, but on the 23rd lap he managed to move up one position and was now in 13th position.

On the 30th lap, the 300-class vehicle slowed down and FCY was adopted but was lifted the following lap and the race restarted.

On the 45th lap, other cars pitted, and he moved up to 12th position.

He gradually closed the gap with the car in front, but towards the end of the race, oil from the car in front got on his front window, forcing him to make an emergency pit stop. He re-entered the track and finished the race in 12th place after taking the checkered flag.



Director: Aguri Suzuki

Thank you for your support throughout this year. We did not get the results we wanted, but we fought to the best of our ability. We had engine trouble this time and had to replace the engine and receive a penalty, but we were able to confirm that our car is worth competing. I am confident that if we can get everything in order, we can become a strong team. We would like to achieve satisfactory results next year. Again, we thank everyone for your support.

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**Executive Advisor: Keiichi Tsuchiya**

We had a 5-second pit stop penalty for changing the engine and several FCYs, but if there had been a safety car, we might have had a chance, but with an FCY the gap could not be closed, meaning no chance. But I believe it is good to have changed the engine before it could go out of order. The result was not great, but the driver showed a superior performance. Thank you for your support throughout the season. I would like to thank all the fans who came to watch the races even on cold and hot days. Thank you so much indeed.

**Director: Hirokatsu Tanaka**

After qualifying, we received a penalty for changing the engine, which dropped us to the back of the pack, but we were able to quickly catch up. It is a pity because I am sure that we could have had a better race without the penalty. A lot has happened this year, but we will do our best to win the championship next year. Thank you to all the fans who supported us this year and to the companies that supported us.

**Driver: Tomoki Nojiri**

We received a penalty for changing the engine, but I think we did what we could in that situation. I think we were fast during this race week and were able to show what we have been doing up until now. But we also had some poor performances, so I am extremely disappointed that we were not where we should have been. As for the championship, it is a year-round thing, so I will leave that aside for now, but since I believe we had enough performance to aim for the top in this race, as for next year, we want to show that performance in the results. We will work hard as one team next year. There are many tough situations when fighting throughout the year, but the constant support our fans have shown us through those times has encouraged us, and we hope those fans will continue to support us. Thank you very much.

**Driver: Nobuharu Matsushita**

We cannot help a penalty from an engine problem, but I was hoping for a bit of luck, but nothing happened. The pace itself was probably in the top 5, so if I had finished a little better, we might have been able to compete for the podium, which I believe a good thing, but looking back at this season, we did not have many opportunities to run without mistakes or in perfect condition. And that is where we missed out on points. For next year, I want to make sure we get rid of such aspects and raise our level to be able to run faster. In order to be able to go on the race stage, we really need our sponsors and supporters. First of all, I would like to express my gratitude to them throughout this year. Also, there were a lot of people who came to the tracks including ARTA fans. I really wanted to have a good race for them every time this year, so if I have the chance next year, I really want to live up to their feelings. I will do my best next year, too. Please keep on supporting us. Thank you very much.

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

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Dec 9th, 2024

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Round 5 Suzuka

■ December 7th, 2024 (Sat): #16 Qualifying Report

Tomorrow #16 will start from 6th grid and aim for at least the podium

In the cold December conditions, it is difficult to match the tires to the road surface, but the low humidity increases the engine's combustion efficiency, and once the set-up is right, it is easy to set a course record.



Although our position is not bad, we would like to close the gap to the leader in qualifying.

Ren Sato took charge of Q1. Although his time was not bad, he placed 8th. Hiroki Otsu did Q2, and 6th place overall.

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The gap to the leader has not changed since the morning session, but there still is a chance in the race. Even if things go wrong, we would like to aim for the podium at least.



Director: Aguri Suzuki

I wonder if there is just one more step to go. We need to look back on what we were lacking, and want to close the gap with the leader, and aim for the podium. Since this is the last race of the season, we want to run well until the end and finish satisfied. We will prepare well.



Executive Advisor: Keiichi Tsuchiya

#16 is not bad, but maybe we need a bit more. It seems there are some problems with the handling, but if the set does not improve, I hope the driver shall do his best and aim for the podium. We would like to grab a good chance.



Director: Hirokatsu Tanaka

#16 car was not bad either, but I think we had performed well enough to go a little further forward in the qualifying, but just did not have enough speed. However, I believe we still have a chance and will do our best.

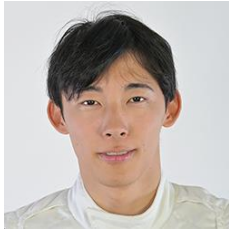


Driver: Hiroki Otsu

Since the grip in these conditions was less than I had imagined, we made some changes to the settings to improve the car balance. We made some improvements in preparation for the qualifying, but the gap to the leader has not changed much since the free practice. I wonder if there was more than we could have done. Our combined results are 6th place, but looking at our individual performance in qualifying, we were struggling quite a bit. We did not get the results we wanted, which is frustrating to us. We will start the race from 6th grid, and we believe that we can still

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move up positions depending on how things go, and we will do our best to get on the podium somehow.



Driver: Ren Sato

The balance of the car itself was not too far off, but in terms of fighting power we were a little behind the leaders and finished in 5th place in the morning. For qualifying we made improvements to the set-up and made changes by predicting the direction, but the gap to the leaders remained the same, and I ended up in 6th place overall. We are not in a position where we do not have a chance. We will do our best and have

to stand on the podium tomorrow.

■ December 8th, 2024 (Sun): #16 Race Report

**Despite engine trouble, #16 crossed the finish line in 5th place,
and the team will show a more stable race next year.
Thank you for your support this year**

The weather was good, just like yesterday, but the wind coming from the Suzuka Mountains was cold. The race started in very freezing conditions. #16 ARTA MUGEN CIVIC TYPE R-GT, which was warming up, showed good balance and was in the top group. We can expect good things from the race.

After two formation laps, the race started. Otsu overtook the car in front of him at the first corner and moved up to 4th position.



On the 10th lap, there was contact between a 500-class vehicle and a 300-class vehicle at Degner, and he moved up to 3rd position.

However, the contact caused the 300-class vehicle to go off the track, and the FCY was introduced.

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After the vehicle was recovered, the race restarted on the 11th lap.

Otsu maintained 3rd position but lost one position on the 15th lap.

After that, he made a routine pit stop on the 18th lap and was handed over to Ren Sato. But the engine stalled twice during this pit stop, which caused him to drop significantly down the ranks.



After all the cars had finished pitting, #16 was in 7th position. It was difficult to overtake the car in front, but on the 28th lap, #16 overtook the car and moved up to 6th position.

On the 30th lap, a 300-class car slowed down and FCY was introduced. On the next lap, the car that was running in 2nd position spun out and #16 could move up to 5th position. But that car closed in from the back, and a dead heat was unfolded for several laps. Gradually, #16 pulled away from the car behind, and on the 43rd lap, it was behind the 4th position car. #16 tried to flash the lights several times, but was not able to overtake, and took the checkered flag in 5th place.



Director: Aguri Suzuki

Like #8, we had engine problems but judged that #16 could still finish the race and kept going but at pit stop some problem appeared. But we could somehow score some points. It has been an unsatisfactory year, but we will get our revenge next year, so please look forward to it. Thank you for your support this year. We look forward to your continued support next year.



Executive Advisor: Keiichi Tsuchiya

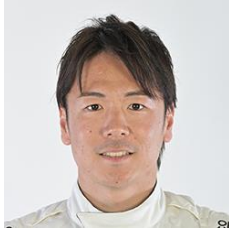
We were racing well, but #16 had engine problems and stalled during a pit stop, so we could not make it to the podium. Thank you for this year. Thank you for coming to watch the race in the heat and cold. We will do our best to make the race even more exciting. Please continue to support us next year.

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Director: Hirokatsu Tanaka

We steadily improved our positions, but compared to the leaders, we still lacked speed. Since we have had races like this all year, I feel really sorry to everyone who supported us. We were able to collect a lot of data this year. We will do our best next year. We look forward to your continued support next year.

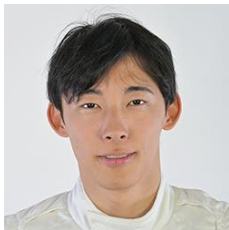


Driver: Hiroki Otsu

I passed #24 at the first corner right after the start and moved up to third position, but at the very end I was overtaken due to poor timing with the 300-class vehicle. I then pitted in fourth position. I was having engine trouble, but I think it good to be able to move up from the qualifying position and pit in even in that condition. Ren was also at a very good pace, and although he lost time somehow on the out lap, he made up for it, and I thought it good to be able to move up from our

qualifying position and finish the race in the end.

Thank you for your support over the past year. This year my teammate has changed, and I wanted to make a fresh start, but in the early stages there were many races where things did not go well, but in the last few races I was able to steadily get points even though it was difficult, and if I could start in this condition I would move up in the championship. I would like to maintain my form in the latter half and prepare for next year. Thank you so much.



Driver: Ren Sato

Otsu was catching up in the initial stages of the race, and we made a driver change in 4th position, but had engine trouble when I was leaving the pits, then got off to a slow start and dropped to around 7th or 8th position. From there, I kept a good pace and was able to catch up to 5th position. I think it was a good result considering the fact that we had some troubles. I think I had a good race to end the year on.

Thank you for your support over the past year. I was not able to race with consistency, and only made it to the podium once this season. There are many issues that have come up, so I would like to review them and carry them over to next season. Thank you very much.

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