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August 4, 2025

ARTA Race Report Round 4 Fuji -Race 1-

■ August 2nd, 2025 (Sat): #8 Race Report

**Nojiri struggled with rising temperatures in qualifying,
but earned valuable points in the race**

This race will be held in a sprint race format, not like the usual ones. This will be the very first spring race for SUPER GT.

There will be no obligation to refuel or change tires during the race, and one driver will run the entire race.

All cars will have zero success weight, and championship points will be awarded per race at half the rate of a regular race.

Saturday's race will be a 35-lap race with a mixture of GT-300 class cars. Nojiri will be at the wheel.

His early time in the morning's free practice was not particularly good, but he seemed to have a good feeling about the session.



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There were high hopes for qualifying, but the tires and track temperature did not match, and he unexpectedly had to start from 13th place.

He went around the first corner without losing positions at the start, but there was a contact with another car at the A corner, which brought out the safety car. At this point he was running in the 12th position. After the car was recovered, the race restarted on the 5th lap.



Before the start, rainclouds were appearing in the northwestern sky, and light rain began to fall on the straights around the 21st lap.

The rain did not significantly slow down the race, and by the 24th lap Nojiri had succeeded in moving up to the 10th position, within the points zone. He recorded his personal best lap on the 31st lap and chased the car in front but finished the race in 10th place.

Though his qualifying position was poor, he was able to earn valuable points, which will carry over into tomorrow.

It is Nobuharu Matsushita who will compete in a 50-minute timed race.



Director: Aguri Suzuki

The car went well at the beginning of free practice, but once the track temperature rose, it went completely bad. Since the temperature is getting higher every year, we need to take that into account when making tire choices. Even in bad conditions, Nojiri's pace was good in the race, and it is good for the team that he scored some points. We want to carry that momentum into tomorrow.

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Executive Advisor: Keiichi Tsuchiya

We brought into the tires that showed a good performance last year, but this year's road temperature was obviously higher than last year's and did not much the tires. That put us at the bottom of the qualifying standings, but Nojiri did not miss his chance and came back with solid points, which was impressive. It really keeps us motivated for tomorrow.



Director: Hirokatsu Tanaka

Our position was not good early in the morning practice, but the feeling was so good that we expected a good race. However, as the track temperature went up, the balance started to go off. We were hoping to get the car right for qualifying, but the track temperature rose more than we imagined, and we could not get the balance right with the tires. Since our lap time in the race was good, we have regrets about our qualifying position, but we will be preparing for tomorrow.



Driver: Tomoki Nojiri

The morning session was not going so well, and we were forced to make major changes for qualifying. This made it difficult to extract the car's full performance in qualifying. That is what I feel regretful about. My qualifying position was so poor that all I could do was get points, which is another thing I regret about. Our race pace was not that bad, and while a podium finish might have been difficult, our pace was fast enough to finish fourth, fifth, or sixth. I am afraid that I have not

finished my job yet. I would like to achieve that level of performance in qualifying tomorrow to support Nobu to be able to drive well tomorrow.

■ August 2nd, 2025 (Sat): #16 Race Report

The track temperature during qualifying challenged the drivers, but in Race 2, the team aims to unleash the car's full potential

This race will be a sprint race, the very first trial for SUPER GT, 35 laps for all cars with zero success weight and points awarded at half the normal race rate. There will be no refueling or tire changes during the race, and each driver will run the entire race. Hiroki Otsu will be the driver for Race 1.

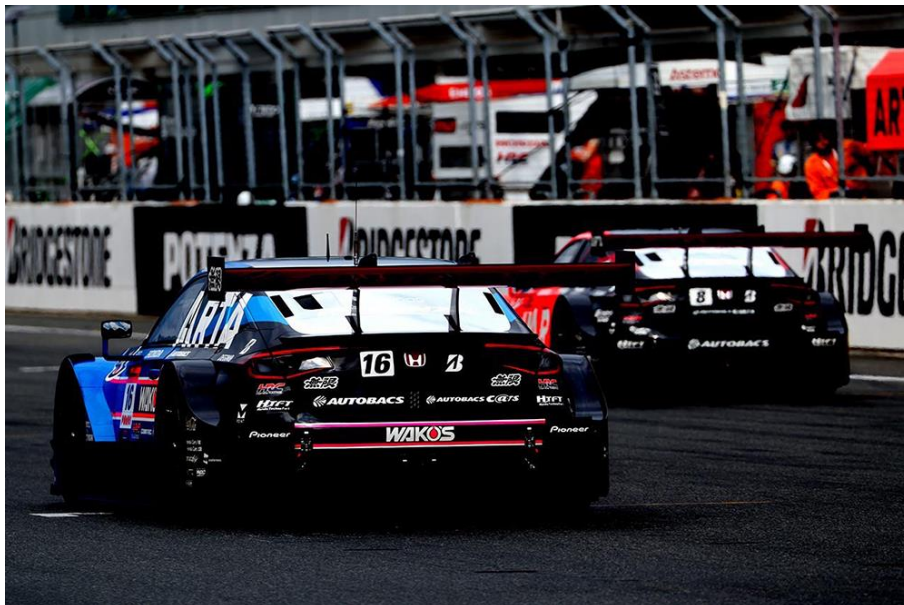
He was running in the top positions early in this morning's free practice but finished in 7th place in the end. The car's balance seemed not bad. But the track temperature went up more than we expected during qualifying, preventing him from matching the tires properly, and he will start from 14th place.

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After the parade lap and formation lap, the race began. Otsu made it around the first corner without losing position but had contact with another car at Turn A and that brought out the safety car. After the car was recovered, the race restarted on the 5th lap.

At the first corner on the 8th lap, Otsu overtook the car in front of him and successfully moved up one position. He maintained his position while waiting for an opportunity. Before the start, rain clouds were looming northwest of the track, but light rain began to fall on the straights around the 21st lap. However, the rain was not strong enough to slow him down, and there was no significant drop in pace.



On the 25th lap the car in front of him gradually began to slow, and he moved up to the 12th position, but was overtaken on the next lap. Otsu's tire conditions made it difficult for him to stabilize his pace.

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He was in a dead heat with the car in front of him, within one second of each other, but finished the race in 13th place.

Tomorrow the team would like to keep the same performance as today's to aim for a higher position. Sato Ren will be at the wheel.



Director: Aguri Suzuki

Not like #8, our morning run was good, but qualifying did not go well. This is the case with #8, I am afraid that we need to change our approach to the expected road surface temperature. This car has a lot of potential, but we have not been able to fully utilize it. We would like to bring it out somehow tomorrow.



Executive Advisor: Keiichi Tsuchiya

As is the case with #8, we brought tires that had shown a good performance before, but the track temperature was too high to get the tires right. Our race pace did not improve, but Otsu maximized the car's current performance. We want to make sure we do not waste his effort and carry it over to tomorrow.



Director: Hirokatsu Tanaka

The #16 felt good off the start, but like the #8, the road surface temperature rose more than we expected, and we were not able to adjust to it, which caused us to finish low in qualifying. We adjusted for the race, and Otsu also tried his best, but we just could not adjust to it. We will be fully prepared tomorrow to make up for it.



Driver: Hiroki Otsu

I felt confident in my high position in the morning session, but the tire compatibility with the track temperature was not so good. The track temperature rose more than we expected, which reduced the tire's peak performance, making qualifying difficult. In the race, I was not able to increase my pace as much as I had hoped, which resulted in a disappointing race. I need to improve my pace for tomorrow. I would like to prepare so well that I can hand the baton over to Ren.

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