



TEAM MUGEN AUTOBACS

2026 Super Formula Round 1 Race Report

#1 Iwasa: Pole Position and a Disappointing 2nd Place Podium Finish
#16 Nojiri: Solid Driving in Heavy Rain for 8th Place

Series Name: 2026 All Japan Super Formula Championship Round 1 & 2

Event Name: MOTEGI 2&4 RACE

Distance: 4,801m x 37 Laps (177.637km) *37 Laps or 75 mins

Qualifying: April 4, 2026 (Sat) Weather: Cloudy/Rainy / Track Condition: Dry/Wet

Race: April 4, 2026 (Sat) Weather: Rainy / Track Condition: Wet

■ Race Overview

The opening race of the 2026 season was held on Saturday morning with qualifying and the race in the afternoon. This was the 100th Super Formula race for driver #16, Nojiri. In Friday's free practice, TEAM MUGEN AUTOBACS achieved a 1-2 overall finish, gaining confidence in their car setup.

In qualifying, driver #1, Iwasa, set the fastest time in Q1 and maintained his lead in Q2, securing pole position. Driver #16, Nojiri, finished 2nd in Q1 and 9th in Q2, but due to penalties for other cars, he started from 8th on the grid.

Due to rain that began after qualifying, the race started under the safety car (SC). However, it was red-flagged and the SC continued to lead after the restart, finally starting on lap 16. But a collision with another car caused another SC deployment.





Immediately after the restart on lap 20, at turn 2, car #1, Iwasa was overtaken by car #6, dropping him to second place. Iwasa looked for an opportunity to overtake again, but another car went off-track, bringing out the safety car. Ultimately, the race ended after 23 laps due to the time limit.

In the heavy rain, the actual race battle lasted less than two laps. Despite these conditions, #1, Iwasa finished in second place, and #16, Nojiri, finished in eighth place, both earning points.



April 4th (Saturday)

■ Qualifying

#1 Ayumu Iwasa Q1: 1st place / Q2: 5th place

#16 Tomoki Nojiri Q1: 2nd place / Q2: 9th place

■ Race

#1 Ayumu Iwasa 2nd place

#16 Tomoki Nojiri 8th place

[Driver: Iwasa]

Round 1 is over. Qualifying was held in dry conditions, and we were able to start with a good result, pole position. I felt that we had made solid progress, continuing from last year. I think it was great.

Regarding the race, the conditions were quite difficult, and we had a few problems, which resulted in us being overtaken. However, it is over now, and since the weather forecast for Sunday is dry, I will switch gears and do my best to achieve lights-to-flag win. Thank you.





[Driver: Nojiri]

Today I successfully reached my 100th race, but unfortunately the result was disappointing.

I am afraid there were some areas in my qualifying that I did not judge well. I also know that in this sport, not everything goes smoothly just because it is my 100th race, and I will work hard to overcome today's challenges for the next race.

Regarding the race, in such rain, I focused on simply avoiding collisions and bringing the machine back to the pit in a condition where I could compete well in Sunday's race. For the second race, I will do my best to start from a good position and win. Thank you for your support.

[Director: Tanaka]

The SUPER FORMULA 2026 season has begun. Both cars showed good speed during Friday's practice session, but it seemed difficult to manage the tires, possibly due to the track surface change. In qualifying, we devised a strategy based on the previous day's practice session, and Iwasa brilliantly secured pole position in the opening race. Nojiri finished qualifying in 9th place (starting 8th on the grid for the race) due to a slight imbalance in his car's balance, a disappointing result considering his speed during Friday's practice.

The race started under safety car conditions due to rain, followed by a red flag delay. The race resumed under safety car conditions again. At the start of the second restart, Iwasa, who had been maintaining the lead, experienced engine problems, allowing Ota to take the lead, and the race ended with Iwasa in that position. Position of Nojiri unchanged and he finished the race in 8th place.

It was a disappointing result as we were not able to maintain the lead because we were not racing at full speed, but we will make up for it in Sunday's race. Please cheer us up!





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