

ARTA



May 7th, 2026

ARTA Race Report

Round 2 Fuji SPEEDWAY

■ May 3rd, 2026 (Sun): #8 Qualifying Report

**It was expected to be a tough battle
the team aimed to gain even one position**

The second round of SUPER GT began during Golden Week, three weeks after the opening race. The car #8, which had conducted two tests at Fuji in March, had positive feeling during those tests.

The free practice session with that setup was very promising, but when qualifying began, the feeling was slightly different from the morning session.



Hiroki Otsu, being in charge of Q1, was somewhat confused but focused and went into his attack. However, he caught up with the car in front of him and could not execute the attack he wanted.

Nevertheless, he made better time, just 0.3 seconds behind the leader, securing 8th place and advancing to Q2.

ARTA



Rain began to fall as Q2 started, but it did not rain enough to wet the track. However, Kakunoshin Ota was unsure whether the rain would intensify later, and went out onto the track early to do a time attack. He gained two positions from Q1, securing 6th place on the starting grid.

It is not the position that I am most satisfied with, but considering tomorrow's condition and strategy, I believe we can conduct very promising race.



Comments from Team Manager Aguri Suzuki:

There are still many challenges. While the qualifying result was not entirely satisfactory, I believe we gave it our all with the capabilities we have at this point. I am looking forward to seeing how we can improve our position from here, but I know it will be a tough fight. We want to compete in a way that allows us to gain even one position.



Comments from Team Director Hirokatsu Tanaka:

We had a good feeling about the setup since the previous test and then brought that setup with us. The balance was so good from the start that I felt we could get a good position in qualifying, and we made some minor adjustments. Although we made it through Q1, we could not control the gap with the car #16 well, and we did not get the time we wanted. Since Otsu also said he had a good feeling, we had high hopes for Q2, but the track temperature and tire match were not good enough

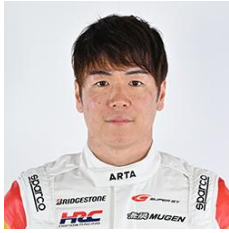
for us to perform to our full potential. However, I believe the current tires make a good match for tomorrow's conditions, so we will do our best to achieve a good result.



Comments from Driver Kakunoshin Ohta:

Since we had a disappointing race in Okayama, I have been working hard to prepare with the team for this Golden Week race, which is the one with the largest crowd of the year. We qualified in 6th place, and I think which was the result of us giving our best, and since tomorrow's race is a long three hours, I believe we are in a position to hope for a good result.

ARTA



Comments from Driver Hiroki Otsu:

We felt good from free practice, and made some changes from the previous test, and we were also able to find some good items during free practice. I felt that it was a run that allowed us to approach qualifying with confidence. In Q1, the gap to the car in front of us closed, and there were times when we could not show our full performance, but I think it was positive that I managed to get through and hand it over to Ota. Ota also drove well in Q2, and we were able to get 6th place. I believe we have a lot of chances for the race, so I would like to make the most of what we did well in free practice and aim for a podium finish or better.

■ May 4th, 2026 (Mon): #8 Race Report

Prioritizing long runs over a single burst of speed, we hope to make adjustments by the next race

The weather was like a typhoon until morning, causing concern about what would happen before the start. However, although the wind was strong, the weather cleared up and the warm-up session began. The setup for the race was well-balanced, and the team felt confident that they could aim for a top position.

This second race was a 3-hour timed race. The starting driver was Hiroki Otsu.

Otsu got off to a clean start, passed the car in front at Turn 1 on lap 6, and moved up to 5th position. His pace was good, and he continued to chase the cars ahead, but on lap 11, he was overtaken by a teammate who was gaining momentum. Furthermore, on lap 14, he dropped to 8th position. Contrary to the feeling during the warm-up session, he could not pick up the pace, and by lap 19, he had dropped to 9th place. Furthermore, by lap 22, he had dropped to 11th position.



ARTA

Around the time he started to lose positions, the track temperature dropped significantly from the start, and it seemed that the tire matching had deteriorated due to the change in temperature. Unable to pick up the pace, he took a pit stop on lap 24. Without a driver change, Otsu was sent back onto the track after only a tire change and refueling. The pace after the tire change was not bad, but they struggled to improve their position. Around lap 43, more cars began making routine pit stops, and by lap 46, they had moved up to 11th position. The car ahead fell into trouble and slowed down, resulting in a Full Course Yellow (FCY).

The FCY was lifted two laps later. The gap between them and the cars in front and behind remained large, and the positions continued to remain the same.

On lap 70, Otsu made a routine pit stop, and Ota Kakunoshin took over. He rejoined the track in 12th place.



The gap to 11th place was large, making it difficult to improve their position, but the car in 6th place was pitted due to trouble, and #8 moved up to 11th place on lap 87. Ota chased the 10th-placed car in an attempt to score points, but three hours had passed, and #8 unfortunately had to cross the finish line.

Because the third race in Malaysia was cancelled, the next race will be held at the same Fuji Speedway in August. The team wants to redeem themselves in the next race after this humiliation.



Comments from Team Manager Aguri Suzuki:

We were feeling good until about the 10th lap after the start, but our performance suddenly dropped once the temperature began to fall. Our teammate was not significantly affected by the drop in temperature, so we want to compare our performances and find out the cause.

Since we have not scored points in two consecutive races, we definitely want to score points next time. This team and driver have the potential to win the championship. I just need to believe in them and push

forward.

ARTA



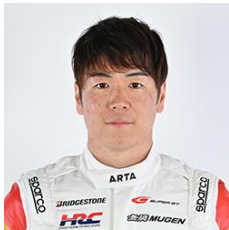
Comments from Team Director Hirokatsu Tanaka:

The drivers' comments during warm-up were good, and I had high hopes for the race, but once the race started, we could not run with the balance we wanted, which caused difficulties for the drivers, and the results were not good. We want to thoroughly investigate the cause of the imbalance and use it to improve next time.



Comments from Driver Kakunoshin Ohta:

In official practice I felt I had a good run, qualifying in 6th place and performing well in the short runs. I thought I could maintain a good pace throughout the race, but I struggled with the long runs, and ultimately finished 11th, failing to score any points, which was disappointing. Since I have some time before the next race, I will review the data and move forward.



Comments from Driver Hiroki Otsu:

Nothing went well. My pace was poor in every stint, and I was particularly put behind in the early stages. We adjusted the tire pressure and other things for the second half, but I could not pick up the pace. There are still many issues to address. I think my qualifying lap was not bad, but I really did not do well in the long runs. I will investigate the cause and make improvements so that the next race at Fuji does not turn out the same way.

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

ARTA



May 7th, 2026

ARTA Race Report Round 2 Fuji SPEEDWAY

■ May 3rd, 2026 (Sun): #16 Qualifying Report

The outcome of the 3-hour race is unpredictable, but we will fight tenaciously and strongly to aim for a podium finish

While the opening race was not a satisfactory result, securing 6th place and points is a good result for competing in the championship.

This time at Fuji, we struggled from the stage of the free practice sessions. We had a good feeling during the March test, but when we brought it to Fuji in May, the car's balance had changed significantly.



Despite under such circumstances, Tomoki Nojiri, who was in charge of Q1, set the 9th fastest time, securing his advance to Q2. His ability to advance through Q1 despite the car's unsatisfactory balance was largely owing to Nojiri's superb driving.

ARTA



Ren Sato, who was in charge of Q2, took his time warming up the tires before going into his attack.

Even in Q2, the car's balance was not ideal, but he managed to secure 8th position. Considering tomorrow's conditions, we feel we can improve our position. Please look forward to the race.



Comments from Team Manager Keiichi Tsuchiya:

I am glad we made it through Q1, but the Honda teams are at the bottom of the pack, and then we need to somehow get the race set up right and try to keep up with Toyota. If we can keep up, I believe we can compete. We are in a position to aim for the podium and will do our best tomorrow. Since we could show good performance for the long race in the previous official test, I have high hopes. The tires seem to be suited to tomorrow's temperature, so I have high expectations.



Comments from Team Director Hirokatsu Tanaka:

We brought the base setup for the #16 from the Fuji test. We struggled to get the balance right, more than we expected, but we somehow got through Q1. We have not figured out the reason yet, but we were not able to perform as well as we wanted in Q2 either. However, considering the race conditions, it is quite good. I believe we can deliver a performance that puts us at the top.



Comments from Driver Tomoki Nojiri:

The result was lower than what we had hoped for. The temperature is expected to be higher tomorrow than today, and I think the tires we are using are suited to tomorrow's conditions. I still have hope. I do not know how the 3-hour race will unfold, but I want to compete tenaciously and strongly and aim for the podium.

ARTA



Comments from Driver Ren Sato:

Today's qualifying was not in very good condition from free practice, and although we made improvements for qualifying, we still could not reach the top, resulting in 8th place. Looking ahead to tomorrow's race, my long-distance running felt very good and I am actually more confident about the race. I want to prepare well so that I can make a strong comeback.

■ May 4th, 2026 (Mon): #16 Race Report

While #16 is the top among the Honda teams, they could not quite catch up with their rivals; they will fight even harder in the next race!

Starting from 8th position, the #16 ARTA MUGEN HRC PRELUDE-GT underwent setup changes for the race and tackled the warm-up lap. The warm-up went well, and the team was in a very positive mood heading into the race.

Tomoki Nojiri was the starting driver. He dropped one position on the first lap but recovered on the next lap.

Nojiri bravely attacked the car in 7th place but struggled to overtake. He finally overtook the car in front at the Coca-Cola corner on lap 5, moving up to 7th position. He then passed another car on the main straight, moving up to 6th position on lap 6.

The car's balance seemed good. On lap 12, he overtook his teammate to move up to 5th place. Although the car's balance was good, there were sections where the strong tailwind made control difficult, and Nojiri radioed Ren Sato, who would be driving the next stint, for advice.



ARTA

After that, the car running in third place received a drive-through penalty, and on lap 27, Nojiri moved up to fourth position.

On lap 40, the car in third place made a routine pit stop, moving Nojiri up to third place. Nojiri pitted on the next lap, handing over to Ren Sato. He pulled ahead of the car battling for position after pitting it out, but it was difficult to hold off as his tires were not fully warmed up.

Around lap 43, many cars started to make routine pit stops. The car ahead slowed down, and a Full Course Yellow (FCY) was introduced, allowing Sato to return to fifth place.

The FCY was lifted two laps later. Sato's pace was good, and he gradually closed in on the car in fourth place.



On lap 73, the two cars ahead made routine pit stops, and Sato was running in second place. Sato was also scheduled to make a pit stop on lap 73, but a 300-class car had trouble and stopped in front of the ARTA pit. The pit stop was delayed by one lap, and the #16 pitted on lap 74 for a tire change and refueling before rejoining the track in 7th place. After the pit stop, Sato won the battle for 6th place and followed the car in 5th place.

The car in front pitted, and the car #16 was running in 5th place on lap 89. A fierce battle ensued from there, but they were unable to overtake the car in front. However, Nojiri, Sato, and the team were able to perform to the best of their abilities, and although it is not a satisfactory result, they were able to finish the race in a commendable 5th place. The next race is also at Fuji. The team will start preparing now to achieve an even better result.

ARTA



Comments from Team Manager Keiichi Tsuchiya:

I think we were able to show a race that was typical of car #16. Above all, Nojiri started from 8th place, moved up the ranks, and handed the car off to Ren, who ultimately finished in 5th place. There were a few minor mistakes, but I think it was a race that we can be proud of at this point. We took the checkered flag in first place among the PRELUDE-GT cars, but we could not see the backs of our rivals from other manufacturers, so we have to raise our level even more. But I believe both drivers had a really good race today. Please look forward to the next one.



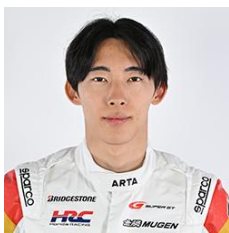
Comments from Team Director Hirokatsu Tanaka:

The feeling was good during the warm-up, and we were able to run the race with that good feeling. There is still a gap compared to the cars of other manufacturers, but I believe we were able to show the maximum power we can at this point. The next race is also at Fuji, and we will prepare to move up the ranks even further.



Comments from Driver Tomoki Nojiri:

I had the impression that we faltered in qualifying, but I believe that I was able to make up for it in my stint. That being said, we did everything we could and still managed to finish 5th. I am afraid that we need to improve even more. Looking back on this qualifying and race, we will work hard to be able to compete more strongly in the next race.



Comments from Driver Ren Sato:

Yesterday's qualifying did not go so well because the temperature was a bit off, but today Nojiri-san made an incredible run from the start and steadily caught up. Our pace was good in the second stint as well, but in the third stint, the track temperature dropped, making things difficult. We somehow held on until the end, and we finished first among PRELUDE-GTs for the second consecutive race. The gap to the top is still large, but I believe we were able to gather some very good data for the future. We will be carrying heavier weight in the next race, but I am confident that we can still aim for victory, or at least a podium finish.

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