



July 20, 2026



TEAM MUGEN AUTOBACS

2026 SUPER FORMULA Round 7 Race Report

TEAM MUGEN AUTOBACS Falls Short

Series: 2026 All-Japan SUPER FORMULA Championship Round 7

Event: 3rd Princess Yoko Cup 2026 All-Japan SUPER FORMULA Championship

Distance: 4,563m x 41 laps (187.083km or 75 minutes)

July 18, 2026 (Saturday), 10:35 a.m. - Weather: Cloudy; Track: Wet

July 19, 2026 (Sunday), 3:35 p.m. - Weather: Cloudy; Track: Dry

【Qualifying Summary】

This qualifying session was held on Saturday morning, one and a half hours after qualifying for Round 6. After the rain had stopped, the track surface became completely dry, and the cars were fitted with slick tires.

In Q1 Group A, there was a red-flag interruption with three and a half minutes remaining, but #1 Iwasa advanced in fourth place. In Q1 Group B, #16 Nojiri recorded the fastest time in his group.

In Q2, #16 Nojiri delivered a final all-out attack and was the only driver to set a lap in the 1-minute 22-second range, earning pole position for the first time since Round 6 at Fuji last year. #1 Iwasa qualified sixth.





【Race Summary】

After oil-cleanup operations were completed, the race restarted from the pit road behind the Safety Car approximately 40 minutes later. The race began with a rolling start from Lap 6.

The two TEAM MUGEN AUTOBACS cars maintained their positions for a while, but #16 Nojiri was overtaken by Car #6 on Lap 10 and dropped to second before making his tire stop on Lap 12. Meanwhile, #1 Iwasa made his tire stop on Lap 15.

On Lap 27, rival Car #6 made its pit stop. On the out lap, both TEAM MUGEN AUTOBACS cars emerged ahead of Car #6, effectively running one-two and successfully executing the undercut. However, because both TEAM MUGEN AUTOBACS cars had changed tires early, their grip began to fade around this point, and from Lap 29 they gradually started to be overtaken by rivals who had delayed their tire stops. In the end, #1 Iwasa finished fifth and #16 Nojiri finished sixth.



July 18 (Saturday) / July 19 (Sunday)

Qualifying (July 18, Saturday / Cloudy / Wet)

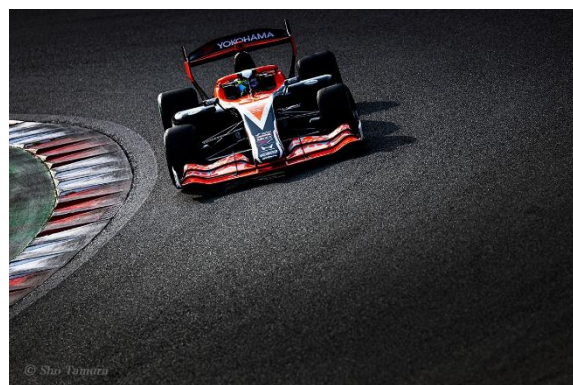
#1 Iwasa 6th

#16 Nojiri Pole Position

Race (July 19, Sunday / Cloudy / Dry)

#1 Iwasa 5th

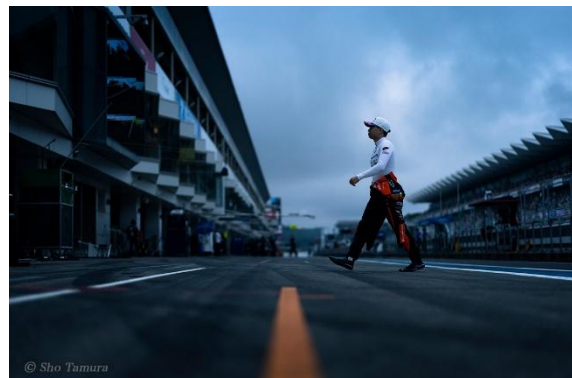
#16 Nojiri 6th





【Ayumu Iwasa】

In qualifying, the track had become dry following Round 6, but the uncomfortable feeling we had been experiencing since the joint test appeared again and we could not extract performance. Although I advanced through Q1, we made a major adjustment for Q2. As a result, the balance of the car became worse, but the feeling was good and we were able to draw out more performance, so I think it was a positive qualifying session despite qualifying sixth.



Because the race started behind the Safety Car due to oil treatment, we were not able to execute the kind of start we had expected, where we could move up immediately. Even so, I think we were able to show the performance the team had.

To be honest, I am not satisfied with fifth place, but I think it was difficult to expect a better result under the circumstances. Looking back on the weekend, we could not get into a good rhythm from qualifying, and it seems that the conditions and the areas we struggle with had a negative effect.



We cannot afford to be discouraged here, so we will review and analyze everything carefully and do our best to win the next race at SUGO and then at Fuji.

Thank you for your support.



【Tomoki Nojiri】

In qualifying, I was able to take pole position for the first time in a year. It felt great to return to the top spot, something I had become familiar with in the past.

In the race, I wanted to build on my second-place finish in the morning Round 3 race and convert my pole start into victory, but unfortunately I finished sixth.

There were certainly many moments when I had to defend, but I fought the race with the intention of winning. In the end, we simply did not have enough, and I was overtaken by the cars behind and finished lower down the order.

The next round at SUGO comes with very little time in between. I want to arrive in better shape and do my best to win. Thank you for your continued support at the next round as well.

【Team Director Tanaka】

#16 Nojiri earned the 24th pole position of his career in qualifying and went into the race from the front row aiming for his first win of the season. Meanwhile, #1 Iwasa started from sixth on the grid with the goal of moving up the order.

Based on the development of races, both #16 Nojiri and #1 Iwasa chose a strategy of pitting early against their rivals in order to target the undercut. The undercut succeeded as planned, but both cars struggled to maintain competitive pace and gradually lost positions in the latter half, leaving us unable to achieve the result we wanted.

Across all three races this weekend, our rivals were overwhelmingly fast, and we keenly felt that the team did not have enough strength. We will do our best to fight back in the second half of the season, and we appreciate your continued support.



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無限 MUGEN



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