

ARTA



August 24th, 2026

ARTA Race Report

Round 5 SUZUKA CIRCUIT

■ August 22nd, 2026 (Sat): #8 Qualifying Report

All We Have to Do Tomorrow Is Give It Everything We Have to Win

After returning to the podium with a second-place finish in Round 4, the No. 8 ARTA MUGEN HRC PRELUDE-GT signaled its comeback. With the season entering its second half at Suzuka, the team was determined to mount a strong recovery.

The morning free practice session was interrupted by numerous red flags, leaving the team with few opportunities to complete meaningful running and placing them toward the bottom of the order early on. However, they identified the key issues, progressed with the car setup, and recorded the second-fastest time during the GT500-only session.

The mood within the team was positive heading into qualifying.



Hiroki Otsu took the wheel for Q1. Having had no opportunity to complete a time attack in the morning session, it was unclear how much performance he would be able to extract. Nevertheless, he set a lap in the 1:46 range and successfully advanced to Q2.

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Kakunoshin Ohta took charge of Q2. He remained in the pits until midway through the session before heading out, carefully bringing the tires up to temperature and beginning his flying lap.

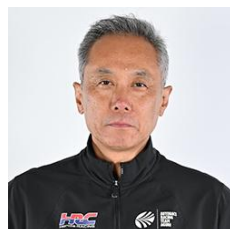
Ohta improved on his morning time but finished third by a narrow margin. Starting from the second row tomorrow, the team is in a strong position to challenge for victory. Please look forward to the race tomorrow.



Comments from Team Supervisor Aguri Suzuki:

With the PRELUDEs occupying the leading positions in qualifying, there is no doubt that the cars are performing well. We were second in free practice, but during qualifying the car ahead went off the track, which made our driver lift slightly. We may have misjudged the timing of sending the car out.

Tire management will be important tomorrow. Although we made a mistake in qualifying, our starting position is still good and we have every chance of winning, so we will give it our best.



Comments from Team Director Hirokatsu Tanaka:

Otsu handled the opening run in free practice, but his initial feedback was not very positive. We changed the setup during the session and, although we did not take the top spot in the GT500-only running, we finished with the second-fastest time and a good feeling, which raised our expectations for qualifying. Because the car had been quick in the morning, it was difficult to decide how far to refine the setup, and I think we were still lacking in some areas. Nevertheless, we will give it everything tomorrow.



Comments from Driver Kakunoshin Ohta:

We were aiming for pole position, so I was disappointed not to get it. Still, we finished third and are in a position from which we can definitely fight for the win, so I am looking forward to tomorrow's race. I am reasonably satisfied with the result, but there is still some frustration. Victory is our main objective this weekend, so I want to prepare thoroughly and deliver the result tomorrow.

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Comments from Driver Hiroki Otsu:

It was difficult to adapt my driving to the car in Q1, but I managed to scrape through in eighth place. We believed Ohta could take pole in Q2, so I think we went with an aggressive setup, but we may still have been missing something. We will start third tomorrow, which gives us a chance to win. I will give it everything I have."

■ August 23rd, 2026 (Sun): #8 Race Report

Both ARTA Cars on the Podium! Big Points at SUGO Strengthen the Championship Fight!

Under clear skies and intense heat at Suzuka Circuit, the warm-up session got underway. The team set the fourth-fastest time, just 0.3 seconds off the top. The car was in good condition, offering encouraging prospects for the race.

Hiroki Otsu started the race. Following a parade lap led by police vehicles and the formation lap, the race got underway. Otsu held his position through Turn 1, then passed one car between the Gyaku Bank and Dunlop Corner to move into second. The car appeared well balanced, but he was overtaken by his faster-paced teammate at the chicane on lap 2.



Starting from lap 5, the leaders began encountering lapped GT300-class traffic. The gap to second place gradually increased, while the fourth-place car closed in from behind.

On lap 17, a GT300 car went off track, prompting an FCY. Although it was withdrawn on the following lap, Otsu was overtaken at the restart and dropped to fourth. Unable to improve his pace, he made the scheduled pit stop.

Kakunoshin Ohta took over and rejoined in 13th place. With competitive pace, he recovered to 10th position on lap 21, putting himself back in the points

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Ohta continued to show good pace. By the end of lap 34, once every car had completed its scheduled pit stop, he was running in third place.

On lap 46, a GT300 car went off and crashed at 130R. An FCY was declared and the Safety Car was deployed shortly afterward. Recovering the car and repairing the crash barrier took time, and the race finished under the Safety Car. The team secured a second consecutive podium, further raising expectations for the championship battle ahead.



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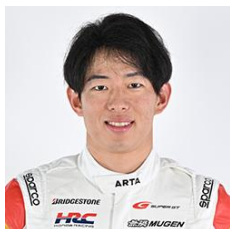
Comments from Team Supervisor Aguri Suzuki:

Once the race started, we realized that the car was not in particularly good shape. Even so, finishing third on the podium under those circumstances was a very good result. We scored no points in Rounds 1 and 2, so taking consecutive podiums in the previous round and this one is significant. Our form is improving, so we'd like to score a big haul of points at the next round in SUGO and strengthen our position in the championship battle.



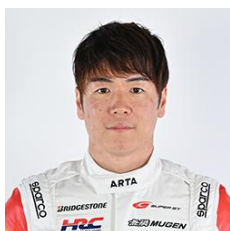
Comments from Team Director Hirokatsu Tanaka:

The warm-up was not bad, but once the race started, we struggled to increase our pace. I think the car setup is still not fully sorted and we were lacking speed. However, we collected a great deal of data in the previous race and today's race, so I believe we can take the car's performance to the next level for the next event. Two consecutive podiums is not a bad result, and we will keep working hard to aim even higher.



Comments from Driver Kakunoshin Ohta:

From a championship perspective, scoring points with a second consecutive podium was a positive result. It is disappointing that we did not win, but it was great to see our teammates in the No. 16 car take victory and the PRELUDES sweep the podium. We are frustrated that we have not won yet, but hopefully our turn will come in the next round. We will prepare thoroughly for SUGO.



Comments from Driver Hiroki Otsu:

I moved up to second immediately after the start and wanted to hold that position, but I was unable to improve the pace despite trying various approaches. By the time of the pit stop, the cars ahead had pulled away, making it difficult to close the gap and turning the race into a tough one. Even so, it was good to finish on the podium and score points. I will work hard so that we can have an even better race next time.

*The contents of this race report and all accompanying photos were provided by ARTA.

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August 24th, 2026

ARTA Race Report

Round 5 SUZUKA CIRCUIT

■ August 22nd, 2026 (Sat): #16 Qualifying Report

Ren Sato Pushes Too Hard and Exceeds Track Limits on All Four Wheels, Still Aiming for Victory

Although the result at Fuji in Round 4 was not the position the team had hoped for, the No. 16 car has scored points in every round and continued to deliver consistent performances.



Numerous red flags in the morning session made it difficult to assess the car's balance. After improving several areas of concern, the team completed a time attack during the GT500-only running at the end of the session and set the fastest time. The result lifted team morale ahead of the afternoon qualifying session.

Tomoki Nojiri took the wheel for Q1. He improved on his morning time and advanced in fifth place, handing the car over to Ren Sato for Q2.

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After setting the fastest time in the morning session, Sato was highly motivated to secure pole position. However, he ran off the track at Spoon Curve, and the lap time was deleted. With enough time remaining for one more flying lap, he managed to record the fourth-fastest time.

Starting from a position where victory remains within reach, the team aims to deliver its best performance of the season tomorrow.



Comments from Team Supervisor Keiichi Tsuchiya:

The car setup was working well, so naturally we were aiming for pole position. It is disappointing that we could not set the time we wanted because all four wheels went beyond the track limits. Still, I want to recognize Ren's determination and fighting spirit. Even with that mistake, we are fourth and in a position to challenge for the win. The car balance is good, so we will go for victory.



Comments from Team Director Hirokatsu Tanaka:

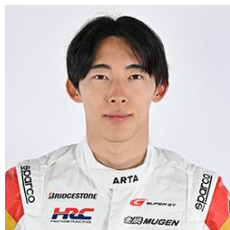
The driver's initial feeling with the car was not very good, but we managed to bring everything together during the session and set the fastest time in the GT500-only running. Knowing the other cars would certainly improve in qualifying, we changed the setup. That direction did not work particularly well in Q1, so we made a small correction for Q2 and entrusted the car to Ren. He produced a very strong lap, but all four wheels went beyond the track limits. Even so, the car has speed, so I am looking forward to tomorrow's race.



Comments from Driver Tomoki Nojiri:

We will start tomorrow's race from fourth. The car was performing well, and I believe I was able to assess its condition in Q1 and hand it over to Ren for Q2. Ren produced a superb attack, but he ran beyond the track limits and his time was deleted. Even so, his determination to push right to the limit increased my motivation for tomorrow. Our race pace also looks promising, so we will fight hard and aim for a strong result tomorrow.

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Comments from Driver Ren Sato:

Nojiri gave me valuable feedback, and the car was improved further for Q2. However, I pushed even harder than the car had improved and went off the track. It is frustrating because the car had the potential to take pole position, but I have to make up for my own mistake. I will do everything I can to win.

■ August 23rd, 2026 (Sun): #16 Race Report

A Truly Outstanding Victory. We Aim to Race Well and Score More Points Next Time!

After the disappointment of the previous day's qualifying, the No. 16 ARTA MUGEN HRC PRELUDE-GT remained confident in its race setup and set the fastest time in the pre-race warm-up. The team was determined to convert that pace into a strong result in the race.

Tomoki Nojiri started the race. Following a parade lap led by police vehicles and the formation lap, the race got underway. Nojiri made a clean start and gained one position by the Hairpin to move into third.

Nojiri showed strong pace and moved into second at the chicane on lap 2.

From lap 5, the GT500 field began encountering lapped GT300 cars, creating an opportunity to close the gap ahead. Nojiri steadily reduced the margin and was right behind the leader by lap 9, but with the two cars running at almost identical pace, he was unable to make a pass. On lap 17, a GT300 car went off the track and an FCY was declared, but it was withdrawn shortly afterward and the race restarted.

The leading car made its scheduled pit stop on the following lap, promoting Nojiri into the provisional lead.



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The No. 16 car pitted on lap 22 and Ren Sato took over. He rejoined ahead of the car with which they were battling for position, but was overtaken before Spoon Curve and was running ninth at that point.

By the end of lap 34, all cars had completed their scheduled pit stops and Sato was running second. He closed in on the leader but was unable to pass. At the chicane on lap 36, he dived to the inside and briefly took the lead, only to be passed again at Turn 1.

On the following lap at 130R, the leading car was held up by a GT300 car. Sato seized the opportunity and finally moved into the lead, then gradually opened a gap over the second-place car.

On lap 46, a GT300 car went off and crashed at 130R. An FCY was declared, followed shortly by the deployment of the Safety Car.

Recovering the car and repairing the crash barrier took time, and the race finished under the Safety Car.



The No. 16 car claimed its first victory of the season, while Sato achieved the milestone of his first SUPER GT win. The team has scored points in every round so far and moved up to second in the standings. They will aim to maintain this momentum in the races ahead.

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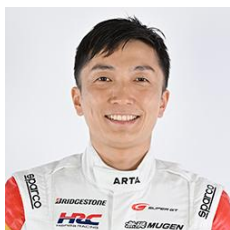
Comments from Team Supervisor Keiichi Tsuchiya:

We were unable to give the drivers a good car at Fuji last time, so everyone on the team came into this event determined and worked together to build a strong car. Of course, results also require the drivers to perform, and they did a great job. I believe this victory shows that our overall strength as a team is improving.



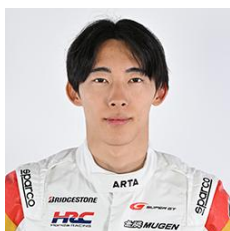
Comments from Team Director Hirokatsu Tanaka:

Nojiri drove with excellent speed, which allowed us to plan our strategy while focusing on the cars ahead. Ren also made a superb recovery from yesterday's mistake. I am truly delighted that we were able to win.



Comments from Driver Tomoki Nojiri:

We finally won. Starting from fourth, I believed we would have a strong chance of victory if I could gain positions during my stint. I managed to do that, so I felt we were in contention. Ren continued to attack boldly, and in the end I think he also put enough pressure on the rival ahead to force a mistake. It was a truly outstanding victory. We want to have another strong race at SUGO and score more points.



Comments from Driver Ren Sato:

I was extremely frustrated after yesterday's qualifying because the car definitely had the potential to take pole position. I went into the race knowing that I had to make up for my own mistake. Nojiri passed two cars in the first stint, so all I had to do was overtake the leader, and I was able to make the move at the right moment. The car was very good, which allowed me to run at my own pace afterward. I am very happy to have taken my first SUPER GT victory. We will prepare thoroughly so that we can fight strongly again at SUGO.

*The contents of this race report and all accompanying photos were provided by ARTA.