ARTA

11/09/2026

ARTA Race Report

Round 8 MOTEGI

■November 8, 2026 (Sun): #8 Qualifying and Race Report

We could not win, but three podiums under the new structure were a fine achievement. Next year, we target the championship.

The final round had finally arrived. All success weight was removed, and every car competed at zero weight.

Yesterday the team delivered an excellent performance, climbing from nearly the back of the grid to as high as second before finishing third provisionally. Today, the aim was to go one step further and take victory.

Kakunoshin Ohta drove in the morning qualifying session. His lap in the 1:36 range initially looked good enough for the front row, but rivals improved and the car qualified fifth. After yesterday's performance, the team still believed it had a strong chance.

The car was second fastest in the warm-up, giving the team confidence for the race.



As on Saturday, clear skies made ideal conditions for spectators. After one parade lap and one formation lap, the race got underway.

Hiroki Otsu started. He lost one position on the opening lap, but contact between GT300 cars brought

out the Safety Car on lap 2. The car was recovered quickly and the race restarted on lap 4.

Otsu held sixth and moved up to fifth on lap 13. He maintained the position until the routine stop on lap 20, when Kakunoshin Ohta took over and rejoined in 11th. As other cars stopped, he moved to ninth on lap 21 and seventh on lap 33. Tire performance then gradually declined, and he lost two positions by lap 40.



Debris from contact between other cars brought out an FCY on lap 44. The race restarted on the following lap, but another incident ahead forced Ohta off the track while taking avoiding action, dropping him to 10th. A retirement ahead moved him back to ninth. He took the checkered flag there after 53 laps, but penalties and disqualifications promoted the No. 8 to seventh in the final result. The team finished sixth in the standings with 49 points.*

This year, with support from HRC, the team focused on strengthening its organization. Although it did not reach its ideal level, producing several exciting races was a significant achievement.

We extend our sincere thanks to all the fans who supported us throughout the year, to our sponsors, and to everyone who supported the team.

We will use this year's experience to pursue the championship next season. Please continue to support Team HRC ARTA MUGEN.

* Based on the revised provisional GT500 result for Round 3.



Comments from Team Manager Aguri Suzuki:
"The year passed in no time. Too many things failed to come together. The No. 8 car's setup was inconsistent, and we need to raise our overall level. We will review what did not work this year and prepare to use those lessons next season. Thank you for your support this year.
We look forward to your support next year. We will come back stronger."



Comments from Team Director Hirokatsu Tanaka:
“Kakunoshin handled qualifying, but we could not give him a car he could drive with full commitment. Starting fifth, we expected to have a strong race, but the balance was poor and the engine was not in good condition, so we could not raise the pace. We changed all four tires, yet the setup made the closing stages difficult. Yesterday we produced a good race, but today we could not repeat it. It is frustrating, but we will prepare for next year and use this experience to improve. Thank you for your continued support.”



Comments from Driver Kakunoshin Ohta:
“I am extremely disappointed that we could not win, although three podiums over the season were a positive. The fact that we did not take a victory is deeply frustrating. The team grew closer as the season progressed, and the PRELUDE-GT developed by HRC became very strong in the second half. We could not achieve the result that potential deserved, but I am truly grateful to everyone who supported us. I will work hard to earn your support again next year. Thank you.”



Comments from Driver Hiroki Otsu:
“We finished the final race in ninth. Thank you for your support throughout the year. It was a difficult season, but we reached the podium, produced some good races, and I feel the team has grown. Thank you for your continued support.”

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

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ARTA Race Report

Round 8 MOTEGI

■November 8, 2026 (Sun): #16 Qualifying and Race Report

Our form slipped from SUGO in the middle of the season, but next year we will win the championship!

An engine problem was detected in yesterday's race, so the engine was replaced overnight for the final round.

However, when qualifying began, Tomoki Nojiri heard an abnormal noise and returned to the pits without setting a time, confirming a last-place start. Because the engine change also required a five-second penalty stop after the race began, the qualifying position itself was less important, but losing the opportunity to check the car and its balance was a major setback.

The car recorded the fifth-fastest time in the warm-up, reducing some of the uncertainty ahead of the race.

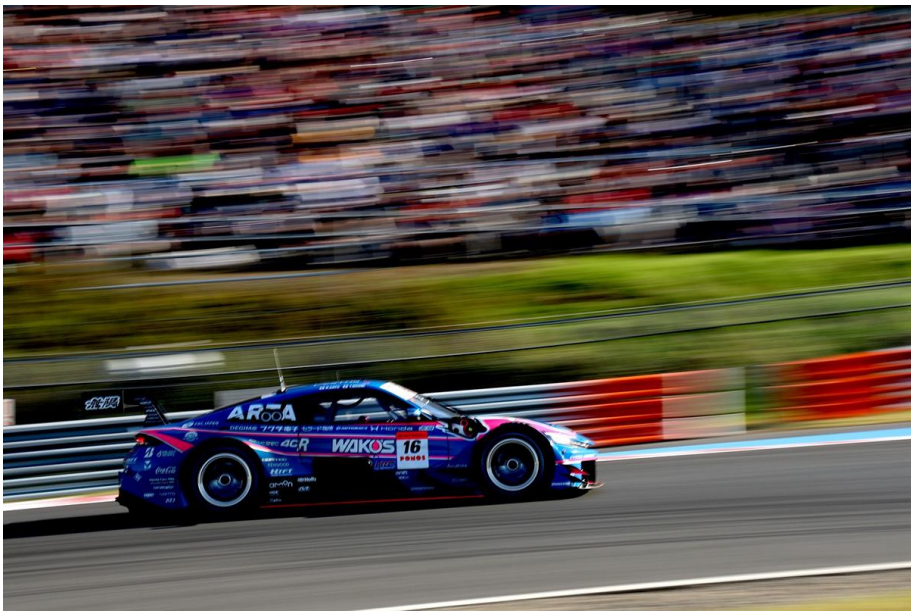


Tomoki Nojiri started. He gained one position to run 13th on the opening lap, but contact between GT300 cars brought out the Safety Car on lap 2. The car was recovered and the race restarted on lap 4.

Nojiri made a strong restart and passed one car for 12th, then gained another position on the next lap. Because of the engine-change penalty, he pitted one lap later, served the five-second stop and

rejoined 13th. He held that position until routine stops began on lap 20, moving him to sixth and then second by the following lap. He made the routine stop on lap 33, handed over to Ren Sato and rejoined 10th.

Debris from contact between other cars brought out an FCY on lap 44, with the restart coming on the following lap.



An incident ahead promoted the car to eighth, where it remained to the finish.

Penalties and a disqualification among the cars ahead then promoted the No. 16 to sixth in the final result. It finished eighth in the series standings.* Although this was not the desired result, the team confirmed that the current package has championship-winning potential and is determined to take the title next year.

We sincerely thank all the fans, sponsors and everyone who supported the team this year.

Please continue to support ARTA MUGEN next year.

* Based on the revised provisional GT500 result for Round 3.



Comments from Team Manager Keiichi Tsuchiya:
"We discovered an engine problem in yesterday's race, replaced the engine and therefore had to serve a penalty. Even with two pit stops, both drivers ran at the same pace as the leaders. There was little that stood out visibly, although Nojiri set the fastest lap of the entire race. The finishing position was not good, but the drivers produced a truly excellent race, one I rate as worthy of victory. We want to carry this into next year. Thank you for your support this season."



Comments from Team Director Hirokatsu Tanaka:
"An unexplained problem prevented us from running in qualifying, but because the engine change already meant a penalty stop, a poor qualifying position would not have made a major difference. The warm-up result was reasonable, so we were not pessimistic. In the race our pace and tire management were good enough to consider running without a tire change. We genuinely had the pace to fight at the front without the engine-change penalty, which makes the result especially frustrating. We will accept this as part of our current level and work to become stronger and faster next year. Thank you sincerely for all your support."



Comments from Driver Tomoki Nojiri:
"Considering the penalty, we finished in a good position and also set the fastest lap. Looking back, we scored consistently and raced well in the first half, but failing to finish at SUGO at the start of the second half seemed to disrupt our momentum. If we blame momentum, it shows we still lack strength. We will improve what was missing and apply the lessons next year. Thank you to all the fans and everyone who supported us. We will use this year's experience and work hard next season."



Comments from Driver Ren Sato:
"We built a solid first half by scoring points consistently. HRC worked hard and the car improved toward the second half, but honestly, I was unable to keep pace with that progress. We need to review how we construct both the car and our races and improve for next year. Thank you for your support this season. We won once, but we will prepare to deliver more victories for everyone supporting us. Thank you, and please support us again next year."

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