

## TEAM Red Bull MUGEN SUPER GT RACE REPORT

### Persistent drive brought in team's first points even in a harsh race

2022 AUTOBACS SUPER GT Round 2 FAV HOTEL FUJI GT 450km RACE

Course: 4,563 x 100 laps (456.3km)

May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022 (Tue) Weather: Fine / Road condition: Dry

May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022 (Wed) Weather: Fine / Road condition: Dry

#### ■ May 3<sup>rd</sup> (Tue) Qualifying:

Q1: Ukyo Sasahara 12<sup>th</sup> place / Q2: - / GT500 class 12<sup>th</sup> place

[Driver Sasahara]



Here we come to Fuji to compete in the Rd. 2. Though we could not score any points in the season opener, we found some positive clues in that race and have been preparing for this race Rd.2 Fuji with them.

We could not warm up the tires enough within a 10-minutes qualifying and road surface condition did not match our car then we ended up with the regrettable 12<sup>th</sup> place as the result.

Since we could not show our real performance, we feel sorry for the fans.

The temperature seems to raise tomorrow. We all the team members will continue to fight together to the bitter end. We have no idea what will happen during the 450km race, but simply try our best to find out something precious or important for our future in the race.

I thank you so much for your continued support.



【Driver Oyu】

Disappointing qualifying result. I am afraid that due to mismatch between our machine and conditions of qualifying, we could not do well. Once it matched, I am sure we would occupy one of the top positions in the race.

I am looking forward to the change of road surface condition which is expected to happen tomorrow. Including our team strategies, we would like to prepare a lot to challenge the race to be able to bring about a good result as well as some clues for the future.

I will keep on going forward anyway. Please give us your power tomorrow.



【Director Tanaka】

We qualified 12<sup>th</sup> place which is quite unsatisfactory result. I am deeply apologetic for all the fans. But since we set up our machine based on temperature and road surface conditions of the race, both team members and drivers are not disappointed at this result much.

Though the race distance is 450km, as long as we make advantage of positive elements gained through the previous race, I believe we can show ourselves overtaking other cars in the race.

We will not give up the race and keep on going. Thank you for your support.

### ■ May 4<sup>th</sup> (Wed) Race: GT500 class 10<sup>th</sup> place

※The Rd. 2 was ended at 6:20 pm following the curfew rule and shortened to 62 laps due to two reg flags during the race.

【Driver Sasahara】



The race was so harsh in fact a red flag was shown twice in response to severe accidents that its number of laps was reduced from 100 down to 62. Though I did not take the wheel, since I monitored the race through Toshiki's radio and knew what happened, I am relieved to hear that both the drivers were safe and none of the audience was injured.

As for the team, in the beginning of the race tire trouble occurred and we had no choice but to change one of our strategies. I was shocked at this trouble. Toshiki dared to bring the car back to the pit and continued the race. Due to such effort, we could collect data. I take this accident positively somehow.

We never gave up this race and moved up to 10<sup>th</sup> place and scored precious points in the end of the race with the help of other car's penalty. I would thank the team for their



perfect pit work and re-realized “nobody knows what will happen in the race.”

I noticed there was an equal number of audiences before pandemic of coronavirus disease at Fuji today. Since I grabbed some clues for the next round, I would like to define them to fight for the top positions in the next round.

I thank you so much for your support.

【Driver Oyu】

I thank you all for your hard work, and also thank all the fans supporting TEAM MUGEN. The race today was so tough. I have heard that none of the drivers nor the audience was injured by today's accidents. I am so relieved.

Regarding myself I spun in the beginning of the race, faced with a tire trouble, and the race was suspended twice due to severe car accidents. I experienced a lot of disasters but did not abandon the race and could score 10<sup>th</sup> place in the end. I would like to grow up more through the race like today's.

I would like to express gratitude for all the fans and the people concerned.

I will try to concentrate on the next race again.

【Director Tanaka】

The race was so harsh that there were two red flags. I am so glad to hear that a driver of #3 Takaboshi was fine even after being involved in such a huge crash and none of the audience was injured.

As for #16 we could not speed up in the race and faced with a difficulty. We forecasted weather conditions of the race and set up the car based on it and in fact the weather conditions of the race were as we expected. Therefore, we looked forward to a good race, however, in reality the car could not pick up speed from the beginning and we had no choice but to have a tough race.

In such a race Oyu as a starter endured and concentrated on his driving and completed the race. I would appreciate very much the support from the sponsors, supporters, and all the fans. We will analyze the reason we could not pick up speed and show our best performance in the next round, Suzuka. Please be kind to continue to support us.



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