



August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022

# **TEAM Red Bull MUGEN**

## SUPER GT RACE REPORT

## The battle for the top position continues, but tears at the tragedy caused by the safety car

2022 AUTOBACS SUPER GT Round 5 FUJIMAKI GROUP SUZUKA GT 450km RACE Course: 5,807 x 77 laps (447,139km) August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022 (Sat) Weather: Cloudy / Road condition: Dry August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022 (Sun) Weather: Fine / Road condition: Dry

### ■ August 27<sup>th</sup> (Sat) Qualifying:

### Q1: Toshiki Oyu 1<sup>st</sup> place / Q2: Ukyo Sasahara 3<sup>rd</sup> place / GT500 class 3<sup>rd</sup> place

[Driver Sasahara]



SUPER GT Round 5 Suzuka qualifying has just ended. We were in  $3^{rd}$  place. I am so frustrated at this result, frankly.

In the practice session, we had compared two types of tires and confirmed the best settings and then could find a good direction. I was in charge of Q2, and Oyu got through Q1 with the top time, which encouraged me a lot. Considering the strategy, I chose a different type of tires and attacked Q2.

I set the best overall times in sectors 1 and 2 but used up the tires in those sectors and had less grip in sector 3. The  $3^{rd}$  place was not bad, and we will continue to keep this position in the race and work hard as one team to win the championship. Thank

you for your support in advance.

I was in charge of Q1. As we proceeded with the setup, things were getting better, and in Q1, we managed to get the tires to their peak and came back in top position. I did my best.

In Q2, the grip peak of the tires came early, and performance of the tires went down in the second half of the qualifying. I expected to see better time, but the result was  $3^{rd}$  place. Considering the length of the race 450km,  $3^{rd}$  place is not bad position.





In the race, we will keep this position and aim for better result with help of better strategy and tire management. Please keep on supporting us.

#### [Director Tanaka]

We have not been able to show the speed from the start of this season. But eventually we could in the Saturday's free practice and qualifying. I am very, very pleased.

We could not get the pole position, but we have been working with Dunlop, and I feel that the speed of the qualifying session is different from the one in the last season. Anyway, I am looking forward to the race. We will fight as one team, so please support us.

### ■ August 28<sup>th</sup> (Sun) Race: GT500 class 6<sup>th</sup> place

[Driver Sasahara]



would come in at that timing.

Round 5 at Suzuka has just ended. The result was 6<sup>th</sup> place, and looking back previous results so far, I might feel good at it but, in reality it was a very disappointing 6<sup>th</sup> place.

I was in charge of the first stint and was able to keep up with the car in front of me while maintaining 3<sup>rd</sup> place. The tires were not too bad. At the same time, I had some confidence in overtaking other competitors since the race was long enough. Then I could drive my car without any mistakes. Condition of the tires was also not bad.

skillfully blocked the #38 to keep his position, but I never thought that the safety car

I feel positive about being able to drive the car fast enough to get top position and compete in the top group. (Anyway) our package had speed throughout the weekend.

We had a chance to win today's race, then it is very regrettable that we lost that chance due to sudden appearance of the safety car. But we never give up and will push hard for the remaining three races. Please continue to support our team. Thank you for your support throughout the whole weekend.

Regrettably, the race ended up with 6<sup>th</sup> place. But I guess we were at least able to show you a cool run. Again, I believe we could show you the hot driving of car #16 and the amazing driving of Ukyo and myself.

Aiming for the championship, all the team members tried to prepare the car for me. In fact, I was able to fight for the top position, and I could feel it and was fulfilled with it. Unfortunately, it did not lead to results. I could not help it,



[Driver Oyu]



but I still regret that the order changed so much because of that one safety car.

There may still be some things that are lacking, but we will do our best to aim for the championship as one team for the next SUGO. Thank you very much to everyone who supported us.

#### [Director Tanaka]

Sasahara, Oyu, and all the team members came together to fight for the race without giving up until the very end. The result was very disappointing. but the fact that we were able to run in the lead until the middle stages of the race was the result of development on which we had been working with Dunlop as of then, and it was also a rewarding race. I feel that it was a race helping me to be able to look forward to in the future.

We will change our mind and prepare for the next round, Sportsland SUGO. Please continue to support us.



























