



Race Report



Super Taikyu 2011 Series Round-1 Sportsland SUGO

(May 29, 2011)



Audi R8 LMS Marks a debut win for the overall category at its maiden race

Hitotsuyama Racing marked a wonderful Pole-to-Win finish at the opening round of Super Taikyu (Endurance) Series held as a one-day event on May 29th.

At the qualifying held in the light rain in the morning, both A driver Tomonobu Fujii and B driver Akihiro Tsuzuki marked top lap times, and Audi R8 LMS showed the overwhelming speed by having a lead of approximately 3.5 seconds from the second-positioned #1 PETRONAS SYNTIUM BMW Z4M COUPE.

Even though it was not reflected on the qualifying classification, Michael Kim also recorded the top lap time in the C-driver qualifying, and we were ready for the challenge to the race in the afternoon in the adamantine condition.

In the continuous drizzle, the 3-hour race started at 13:39 after one lap of the safety car run.

Audi R8 LMS, driven by Tomonobu Fujii, made its way into the first corner as a leader. We assumed that we would make the gap bigger and bigger between us and the following competitors after that.

However, the symptom of “the rear grip going down when the road surface starts drying”, which Tsuzuki complained about in the morning qualifying, had occurred. Instead of making a gap, the race development became severe with Taniguchi of the second-positioned #1 PETRONAS SYNTIUM BMW Z4M COUPE getting closer to us.

The team decided to make Tomonobu Fujii come into the pit earlier than scheduled considering the work to be done such as changing the inner pressure of the tires, made the slight change to the setting, refueled, had the driver change to Michael Kim, and sent the car back to the track.

Michael Kim drove smoothly at a higher pace than the qualifying lap. The position had

been dropped temporarily due to the different timing of the pit-in from the others, but we became the overall leader again after other cars had their pit-in completed.

After a while the fog became dense, and the safety car was brought in. The team decided to change its strategy to have the final pit stop during this time, had the refueling and the driver change to Akihiro Tsuzuki, and sent the car back to the race. Due to the fact that the overall second-positioned #1 PETRONAS SYNTIUM BMW Z4M COUPE had the driver change to Yanagida at the same timing, 2 cars developed a close competition on the track for a while.

After that, at a point where we got a lead of approximately 10 seconds to Yanagida, the safety car was bright in again because of the fog, and the safety car run continued for a while. The fog became denser and denser, and the race was stopped with the red flag at the point of 20 minutes left in the 3-hour session, which led to the end of the race. As a result, Audi R8 LMS could secure the overall win.

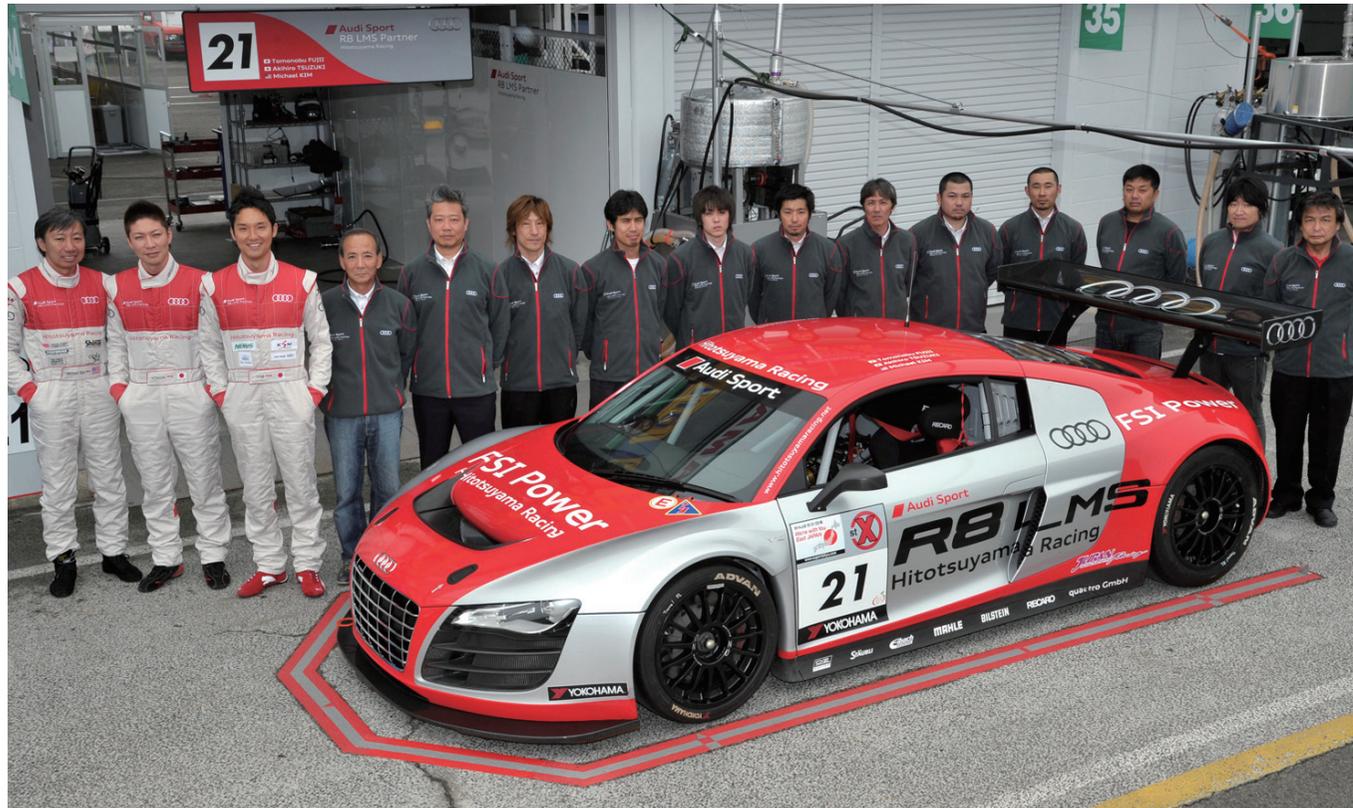
We would like to thank the fans who came to support us in the rain, those who supported us, 3 drivers who drove till the end of the race without making any mistakes in this difficult condition, and all those at Nova Engineering who made the precise judgment and led the team to the overall win, from the depth of our heart.

The next race, Round 2, will be held at Fuji Speedway on July 24th.

We will continue to challenge the race with confidence to win, and your continued support would be greatly appreciated.

Hitotsuyama Racing

Audi Sport
R8 LMS Partner



Machine	: Audi R8 LMS
Engine	: 90° V10
Displacement	: 5,200cc
Power	: 500hp
Torque	: 500Nm
Transmission	: Sequential 6-speed gearbox
Tyre	: Front 29/66-18 Rear 31/71-18
Weight	: 1,300kg
Team	: Hitotsuyama Racing
Director	: Mikio HITOTSUYAMA
Car No	: 21
Driver	: Tomonobu FUJII (JPN) Akihiro TSUZUKI (JPN) Michael KIM (USA)
Maintenance	: NOVA ENGINEERING

Contact : contact@hitotsuyamaracing.net

www.hitotsuyamaracing.net

