

Hitotsuyama Racing

Press release - 2012.0925 - 015

Race Report

Super GT 2012 Series

Round-6 / Fuji International Speedway

Retired by the alternator trouble

Hitotsuyama Racing participated in the Super GT Round 6 Fuji GT300km race held at Fuji Speedway on September 8th and 9th. #21 ZENT Audi R8 LMS was forced to have the difficult development by suffering from the power-down of unknown cause immediately after the start, and then retired.



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Qualifying / Practice sessions, September 8th

Richard Lyons, the GT500 champion, who led the team to one more step to the 2nd podium finish at the previous Suzuka Pokka 1000km and made the whole spectators on the premise excited. From this event, we decided to have Richard behind the wheel of #21 ZENT Audi R8 LMS. Fuji Speedway is a very demanding circuit with a long straight section for Audi R8 LMS, but the team set a realistic goal of finishing 6th place in the class and arrived at the circuit with very high morale. Official practice started under the strong sun that does not seem it was September. At First, Richard was responsible for the setting. Right after the start of the run, we had a trouble of the left rear tire burst on lap 6. That made us not to be able to perform the setting of the main tires and forced us to have a very tough development. Once Richard found the best setting under the given conditions, he returned the pits early and let Akihiro Tsuzuki to drive in the remaining time. However, a small amount of power steering oil leakage occurred while Tsuzuki was driving. Due to this oil leakage, Tsuzuki suffered the symptoms of rear tires sliding during the cornering, and we had to finish the official practice without being able to run satisfactorily. As the results of the official practice, our best lap time was 1' 42" 493 that Richard recorded at the beginning and it placed us on 13th position in the GT300 class, but we were able to keep the top position of the three Audis. In the qualifying session that took place in the afternoon, Richard was responsible for Q1. 16 out of 24 cars can proceed to Q2. In the first official qualifying of GT300, Richard lost the timing of the attack because he was a little puzzled by the large number of vehicles. Once he recorded the time of 1' 42" 274 and came back to the pit, Richard retreated to the 17th position which was out of the range to proceed to Q2 because some of the rival cars achieved the better times right after that. Richard entered the track again with a little remaining time and bet on the one-lap time attack. #21 ZENT Audi R8 LMS, which became the last car to make the time attack, was shown on the on-site monitor, and much attention was paid to its lap time. Richard recorded the time of 1' 41" 998 which he renewed his own time, and he went up to the 11th position at once. That made us to advance to Q2. Tsuzuki took charge of the following Q2. He made the time attack for three laps in a row in good timing, but the gap between the rivals and us was large due to the long straight at Fuji Speedway, and we were eliminated by Q2 being placed on 15th of GT300 class.

P1 #31 apr HASEPRO PRIUS GT Morio Nitta / Koki Saga

P2 #33 HANKOOK PORSHCE Masami Kageyama / Tomonobu Fujii

P3 #16 MUGEN CR-Z GT Hideki Mutoh / Daisuke Nakajima

P15 # 21 ZENT Audi R8 LMS Akihiro Tsuzuki / Richard Lyons





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Race Day, September 9th

in front and us expanded gradually. After that, Tsuzuki drove for 25 laps while fighting for the power down of unknown reasons. He managed to make the position up to 11th and handed the last half of the stint to Richard. However, even though the mechanic sent a sign to start the engine after finishing the replacement of tires, Richard was not able to start the engine and only time was passing by. # 21 ZENT Audi R8 LMS was regrettably pushed back into the pit for data check. As a result of data check by the mechanic, we found that the voltage of the machine was lowered and it made us not to be able to start the engine. We tried to repair the machine by replacing the batteries and connecting to the external power supply, but we could not repair the machine, and unfortunately this forced us to retire from the race.

P1 #33 HANKOOK PORSHCE Masami Kageyama / Tomonobu Fujii

P2 # 31 apr HASEPRO PRIUS GT Morio Nitta / Koki Saga

P3 # 16 MUGEN CR-Z GT Hideki Mutoh / Daisuke Nakajima

DNF #21 ZENT Audi R8 LMS Akihiro Tsuzuki / Richard Lyons

Mikio Hitotsuyama, Team representative

“Since Sepang in June, it has been a retirement for three rounds in a row. This time we expected Richard’s drive, but we could not even see that. R8 having a very good pace in the race, we knew the machine had something wrong at the point where Mr. Tsuzuki could not go up the higher position easily, but it seemed that the alternator had already died in the first corner on the first lap after the start. This caused other troubles in various places and also led to the power down. This is the second time this season following the SUGO round that we retired by the alternator trouble. I’m very disappointed to retire twice by the same trouble, and I feel sorry to Richard who has canceled his honeymoon to join the team for this day. Of course, I have the same feeling to all the fans and sponsors who support us. As the proverb says “The third time pays for all”, we will make efforts to have a good result at Autopolis.”



Official Facebook page of Hitotsuyama Racing.

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