

Race Recap: Japanese Grand Prix

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Formula 1 returned to Japan last weekend for an action packed race full of fantastic overtakes and a points-finish for hometown hero, Yuki Tsunoda.

As the lights went out and the race got underway in Suzuka, so did the drama. Not even one lap of racing was completed before a red flag was given due to a crash between RB's Daniel Ricciardo and Williams's Alex Albon. It was chalked up to a racing incident, and no penalties were given: Ricciardo was trying to get out of the way of cars on his left, and his rear right tire caught Albon's front left, causing both cars to spin out and hit the tire barrier. Both drivers were uninjured, but the same could not be said for their cars, and both had to retire.

The rest of the race went smoothly, with all remaining drivers finishing except for Sauber's Zhou Guanyu, who reported a gearbox issue and was out on lap 14. Additionally, there were no other crashes. Logan Sargeant came close on lap 42, ending up in the gravel, but not in the wall. He was able to reverse the car back onto the track, but it dropped him into last place and he wasn't able to make up positions. After the race, both Red Bull drivers, Max Verstappen and Sergio Perez, made comments regarding the slip-up when watching the highlights in the cool down room, remarking that it was impressive that Sargeant didn't get stuck in the gravel as most drivers do.

This being his home race, all eyes were on Yuki Tsunoda. The RB driver has put forth stellar performances all season, out-qualifying his teammate at every single race this year, and finishing better than him at all except one. This weekend was no exception as Tsunoda once again started and finished in the top ten, making him the first Japanese driver to score points at a home race since 2012. A speedy pit stop certainly helped his situation: five cars all pitted on lap 23, and he was able to come out in front of the other four drivers. He also displayed some fantastic overtakes, most notably a bold move on his former teammate, Pierre Gasly, on lap 13, as well as getting past Nico Hülkenberg while being closely followed by Lance Stroll on lap 33.

To watch race highlights, click [here](#), and to read the results and more detailed reports of each day of the race weekend, click [here](#).

Edited by:

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