

#30 Tatsuya Yamaguchi: Qfy 7th /Race 4th

Qfy: 58sec746 Race BEST: 58sec53

ST 600

Tatsuya Yamaguchi, the former MORIWAKI Racing JSB1000 rider has back to MORIWAKI for this season. He is taking ST600 machine from MORIWAKI Club team, a lot different from what he was used to when he was riding JSB1000 in MORIWAKI back in 2008.

"MORIWAKI ENGINEERING was not planning to race in All Japan Championship this year, however, Yamaguchi told us about his wish to ride for MORIWAKI so here we are. Because our focus is now on MD600 development, so we could only offer him a club team. I respect him as a racing rider and it was not ideal for him but he understood our situation and accepted that offer." said the club manager, Shogo Moriwaki. Because the team started late, they didn't have enough time to prepare the complete race machine until the last moment. They had to get necessary race parts one by one. The machine wasn't ready last week when they had an official pre-season test. And it was only last Thursday, all the race parts were assembled on the machine.

The team had a chance to ride the "race condition" machine on Thursday in dry but the ART test on Friday was wet. Even the 1st session of qualifying on Saturday the team had a trouble and Yamaguchi couldn't really take the bike for time-attack until the second session of qualify.

Despite all the odds, Yamaguchi marked relatively good time with the machine which was still not getting the right setting. He got 7th with 58.746sec. The third row start.

The team continued to set up the machine during the Warm-up on Sunday, and getting ready for the race.

During the warm-up, ST600 riders were struggling with the cool temperature and not improving from Saturday, but Yamaguchi kept his pace and marked 58.850sec, the fastest in the session.

The sun didn't stay long and the sky was covered with clouds. Some rain drops made the day even colder. The race started in such uncomfortable weather.

Yamaguchi made a good start, jumped up to 4th position when they finished the lap1. He kept up with top 3. It was faster than his qualify time. He managed to pass one rider at lap6 and kept that 3rd position until lap13. He lost 2 positions at lap14, came back to 4th at lap22 and finished the race.

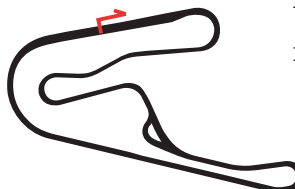
[CIRCUIT DATA]

TSUKUBA CIRCUIT

LENGTH 2,070m

RIGHT TURNS 6

LEFT TURNS 4





MFJ All Japan Road Race Championship, round 1 at TSUKUBA MORIWAKI CLUB Race report

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Yamaguchi's comment:

I was thinking about moving up to world championships for 2010. But that didn't work and I had to take this season as a preparation step for my world championship challenge. I really wanted to race in MORIWAKI team so I asked Ms Midori, the MORIWAKI manager, and with help from Shogo, MORIWAKI Club manager, I was able to enter the opening round of All Japan Championship. Because of the lack of preparation time, I missed the podium finish just by one, though I was planning to win the race. However, it was fruitful race and I was fining things that what I should be doing as a rider right this moment. I am very happy and thankful with the team who worked hard to meet my requests. The club members also came to support me, following the Shogo's call. I thank everyone who supported me and I will return the favor at coming races.

Shogo Moriwaki, team manager's comment:

We had only Thursday, Saturday and Sunday morning warm-up to test the bike in dry condition. Yamaguchi used to JSB1000 bikes and had not had ST600 setting data or know-how. He had to start from scratch. But he managed to keep up with top riders in the race. As a road racing rider myself, I was impressed about how he can adapt to the class. I learned that if you have skill, you can ride fast doesn't matter what condition you are in. I am not sure if I am qualified to take care of such high level rider but I will give my best to support him. I would like to thank you for your support to our team and look forward to seeing you all at next race.

