

2012 Formula Nippon Rd.3
AUTOPOLIS
26 MAY 2012

QUALIFYING

Spectators: 5,455 (Weather : Cloudy partly Sunny)



PETRONAS TEAM TOM'S drivers, Kazuki Nakajima and Andre Lotterer will start the round 3 of Formula Nippon 2012 from 7th and 13th respectively following knock out system of qualify sessions at Autopolis, Oita Pref..

- Kazuki set fastest time in morning free practice, it mentioned good shape again for the round 3
- Andre had a little problem with new tires and he was defeated at Q2 due to of miss communication
- Kazuki felt strange over his car that lap time was not able to improve from free practices time
- Autopolis made resurface for the event, flat and smooth

| Drivers | Car No. | Q1 | Q 2 | Q3 |
|-----------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|-------------|
| Andre Lotterer | 1 | P4 1:29.481 | P13 1:31.535 | |
| Kazuki Nakajima | 2 | P9 1:29.842 | P4 1:29.385 | P7 1:29.903 |
| Weather | Overcast/Dry | | | |
| Temperatures | Air: 20-20 C | Track: 28-28 C | | |

ANDRE LOTTERER (Driver for car No.1)

“I saw the checkered flag around last corner, that was no way. If I knew I had not enough time, I tried to push more to make one more lap and get into Q3 because my tires was working better in third lap. Actually I did not qualify. New surface is very nice, very smooth but I had under steer. Rear grip was OK but front tires had very little vibration. Balance on used tires was quite good but with new tiers were no good. I will try to pass cars as much as possible. Hopefully take good strategy to make better race and to get points.”

KAZUKI NAKAJIMA (Driver for car No.2)

“I hope continued free practice situation to qualify but in Q1, I felt difference from morning. We change set up a little but I got traffic in Q3. I got chance that Andre and J-P were knocked out in Q2, so I was able to make better situation against them but result was not so far from them. It was shame that I made fastest time in the morning practice and I did not improve my time. We have to sit and discuss over my car set up deeply. It was big question that track condition changed better but I could not make better. I will check fuel consumption and tire wear tomorrow morning and make right strategy to improve my position in the race.”

TSUTOMU TOJO (Engineer for car No. 1)

“There was not enough time to pass Q2 that Andre off the pace on second lap. We asked Andre to in to the course just late, it was just few seconds. It looked good in the free practice but in the qualifying, we were not fast enough. It will be hard race tomorrow from 13th spot. We will try to get point finish here in Autopolis.”

MASAKI SAEDA (Engineer for car No. 2)

“We change a little to fix and Kazuki made fastest in free practice. It was good but in qualify, story was not hopeful for us. We did not change from morning so change of track condition was main reason that Kazuki was not able to improve time. I have to look after the data and find something. We and Kazuki make always strong race and will do again tomorrow.”

NOBUHIDE TACHI (Team Director)

“First of all, sorry to Andre that we had to him in the course bit before. He could not use his ability of drive in Q2. And we are worried why Kazuki was slow in the qualifying. Both of drivers especially Andre will have hard race from 13th spot but I remember Kazuki started very end of field last year and won. I hope we will make right strategy and get points tomorrow.”

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 27 MAY 2012

RACE

Spectators: 11,650 (Weather : Sunny)



PETRONAS TEAM TOM'S driver Kazuki Nakajima finished 5th and Andre Lotterer retired in the 2012 Formula Nippon round 3 at Autopolis today.

- Andre had suspension failure while he run P12 on lap 11 and he gone off then he came back to pit
- Kazuki came to pit for refuel and two rear tire change after 15th lap, made one position up when he back
- Kazuki made another one position up after he took

over Oshima and finished 5th to get 4 points

| Drivers | Car No. | Result / Fastest Lap |
|-----------------|----------------|----------------------|
| Andre Lotterer | 1 | Retired |
| Kazuki Nakajima | 2 | P5 1:30.647 |
| | | |
| Weather | Sunny-Overcast | |
| Temperatures | Air: 26-25 C | Track: 50-39 C |

KAZUKI NAKAJIMA (Driver for car No. 2)

“It was very bad start and I lost one position just after move forward then I pass one car and another car gone off but Yamamoto passed me so I was P7 on lap one that my start position. We decided to make pit stop early and change only two rear tires, that was good for gained one position then I took over Oshima 10 laps to go. It was good result from 7th spot start but my consecutive podium finished was stop. Today was Tsukakoshi's day. We Tom's cars, two Dandelion cars and Impul cars will make championship interesting. I will concentrate from qualify in next round at Fuji.”

ANDRE LOTTERER (Driver for car No. 1)

“It was bad week end. In the racing, anything happen but I hope should not happen. I thought since last three years I had not trouble but I had rear suspension arm trouble today. It was suddenly broken, very strange trouble. I made good start then I little bit off the track at turn 3 while I tried to pass the car but he moved and I avoided touch in to gravel. After that I focused on save my fuel to make position then happened trouble. Tsukakoshi is leading championship but it is early to say about championship after round 3.”

TSUTOMU TOJO (Engineer for car No. 1)

“As always, Andre made good start but he off the track once and back off. He made very good lap time with race set up in morning free practice but from 12th spot to start was almost impossible to get good result. And he had suspension trouble that was first case in our team. We will concentrate to make good qualify in next round Fuji.”

MASAKI SAEDA (Engineer for car No. 2)

“We had two plan to make pit stop and Kazuki asked me that he stack behind Yamamoto so we moved to call him to pit after lap 15. And we already decided to change only two tires. It was right strategy and Kazuki drove very steady to keep tires good condition and he took over Oshima to P5. We needed better qualify result for better race result and we look forward to Fuji to finish podium and more.”

NOBUHIDE TACHI (Team Director)

“In the Formula Nippon, you have to qualify good is very important. If you qualify bad, it is very hard make good result. It was bad weekend for us in Autopolis. Andre was retired due to of rear suspension failure. It was very rare and first in our team. Kazuki made another strong race to get points. We will back to front stage in Fuji to race for win and podium.”