



DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING

Team Release

Qualifying Report

2015/7/18 Rd-3 Fuji Speedway

Weather : rain Temperature : 27°C 19cars

From the effects of the typhoon, it has been unsettled cloudy weather with raining off and on. The surface condition changes rapidly, and it troubles engineers and drivers choosing tires and attack timing.

DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING kicked off the beginning of 2015 season with double-podium. In this important race towards the middle stage of the season, position of QF counts crucially.

In knock-out QF1, Nojiri changed the set-up considering the result of free practice, which appears to have worked negatively. His car lost the balance and dropped his position to 17th. His QF was over.

Karthikeyan drove satisfactorily. Especially, he shortened his time in Sec2, and starts from 8th in QF2.

Following QF2, Karthikeyan changed set-up slightly in order to shorten his time in Sec1 and Sec3. In heavier rain, he made a stable attack and recorded the 2nd fastest time. He moved on to QF3.

QF3 is to decide the order of top 8. Karthikeyan adjusted the set-up for rainfall and tire condition.

At his attack lap, Karthikeyan escaped from the 2nd by 0.15sec in Sec1 and Sec2, and seemed secure the pole position. However, tire performance deteriorated in Sec3, and he finished QF3 in 5th.

#40: Tomoyuki Nojiri Position 17th (QF1 17th) 6th among Honda users

I had a bad feeling in the free practice in the morning. We took measures for QF, but the car lost its balance the other way. After some adjustment, I pitted out. However, the rain got stronger, and I couldn't make a time-attack after all. Tomorrow, the weather will be clear. I have to start from behind, but I think I can keep a good pace to finish the race with some points.



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#41: Narain Karthikeyan Position 5th (QF1 8th, QF2 2nd, QF3 5th) 2nd among Honda users

At beginning, I didn't have a good feeling about the used tires. We fixed the setting a little, and after changing to new tires, I had the confidence to push hard. I am a little disappointed that I couldn't shorten my lap because of damaging tires at my final attack. Starting from the 5th position means I have a good chance of standing on the podium.

I will make a good start, which is my task, and will leave a steady result.

Translated by Mariko Nakayama



Race Report

2015/7/19 Rd-3 FUJI International Speedway

Weather : Cloudy/Fair Temperature : 33°C 19 cars

Audience : 11,000/18th (Sat.)、 19,000/19th (Sun)

A typhoon has passed. The weather was threatening, however, it turns to be a nice day for race with the sun appearing now and then.

Rd3 at FUJI International Speedway, a turning point of the season, is about to start. To put themselves in contention for championship in the latter half, Karthikeyan, starting in 5th position, goes on a mission to win this race, and Nojiri, in 17th position, must finish the race with some points.

Karthikeyan started off beautifully from 5th grid. However, when he flew into the first corner leading the group for 3rd place, a following car crashed into Karthikeyan's car. He was pushed out, then, sideswiped another car, causing great damage of suspension and front wing. He came to retire from the race.

Nojiri drove the opening lap in 15th. As soon as the safety car, actuated after Karthikeyan's crash, came out, he passed one car.

While a large number of cars made pit-stops at the relatively early stage of the race, Nojiri kept shortening lap time at an overwhelming pace, and made a pit-stop on Lap29. He had refueling and 4tires changed without a mistake, and returned to the course in 9th, 6 position up.

Then, he repeatedly recorded lap time of 1'26s , as fast as the top three. Finally, on Lap43, he moved up to point-getting 8th position. He still tried to take over the car ahead, but 7th position was not quite reached. He finished in 8th with 1 point.

#40: Tomoki Nojiri Position 8th (1st among HONDA users)

From start to goal, I just pushed. Our strategy was flexible, and I thank my team support for 1 point. This point will be crucially important in the latter half of the season. In QF, we had troubles in tire choice and adjustment to the weather, but during the race, the car condition was excellent, and it provided us with lots of benefit for the next race. Next MOTEGI is a tough course for all of tires, brake and drivers. I will keep good physical condition and prepare for it with my team.



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#41: Narain Karthikeyan Retired

Starting, which I had never been satisfied with so far, was OK this time. However, in the group for 3rd position, I was collided from behind to finish the race. If I had stayed on the course, I could have competed splendidly for a victory. It is a pity that I couldn't share the excitement of the race with many fans.

During both QF and the race, there were many positive factors about the car and the team, so I am looking forward to the next race.

Translated by Mariko Nakayama