



Qualifying Report

2015/8/22 Rd-4 Twin Ring MOTEGI

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

Here at TWIN RING MOTEGI, the latter half of 2015 season has just begun. With fully developed SF14, each team's potential is competing against each other. DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING, having reached Podium twice and earned points, stands 4th which is the top among HONDA users. To become one of top 3, this is going to be a very important race.

In knock-out QF1, DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING first checked two cars' condition and the surface condition using the used tires.

Nojiri who had changed the set-up significantly for QF adjusted it slightly, then attacked in 5 min remaining, and got 5th position.

With Karthikeyan in 8th position, they both moved on to QF2.

Following QF2, Nojiri changed the set-up a little, expecting to have more tire grip as the surface condition changes. He ranked 5th after the attack lap, same position as QF1.

Karthikeyan made a regrettable mistake between Sec1 and Sec2. Even he tied for the fastest time in Sec3 and Sec4 to recover the delay, he finished in 11th.

In QF3, after adjusting the setting in addition, Nojiri shifted timing from others and made a course-in with high concentration. He drove Sec1 and Sec2 fastest, exciting the spectators. He lost 0.1sec in Sec3, however, recovered greatly in Sec4 to be in 1st position provisionally.

Although he seemed to get pole position, Ishiura was 0.02sec faster. Nojiri finished QF in 2nd happily and at the same time mortifyingly.

#40: Tomoyuki Nojiri Position 2nd (QF1 5th, QF2 5th, QF3 2nd) 1st among Honda users
I felt it would be difficult to rank within top 5 during free practice.

So, I discuss with my team and changed the setting significantly. As a result, the feeling was very good, and I could adjust driving to change of the surface condition.

Team had prepared the marvelous car for me according to the situation. I am glad to get 2nd position, but I am also disappointed since I was in 2nd last year in MOTEGI, too.



DDCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING

Team Release

#41: Narain Karthikeyan Position 11th (QF1 8th, QF2 11nd) 4th among Honda users

I had a good feeling about the car, so I had confidence in competing well. It was all about my mistake in QF2, but I was only 0.5sec behind the top then I am in 11th position! I have realized the severity of SUPER FORMULA again. TWIN RING MOTEGI is a tough circuit for both a car and driver's physical strength. Tomorrow, I will focus on starting and try to finish in higher position with the entire team together.

Translated by Mariko Nakayama