



DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING

Team Release

Race Report

2015/8/23 Rd-4 Twin Ring MOTEGI

Weather : Cloudy Temperature : 26°C 19 cars

Audience : 11,000/22nd (Sat.)、 15,000/23rd (Sun)

Probably due to the two typhoon coming closer to Japan, there is a cool breeze here in Motegi with light cloud.

Around noon, when Pit Walk is just about to start, a rain drop begins to fall bit by bit, and soon the rain comes down in earnest. It continues for nearly two hours.

The rain stops before starting of SUPER FORMULA. How would the wet surface affect the development of the race?

Nojiri, in the front row, focused on starting to jump out to the top, but it was unfavorable to start from the inner side of the course, where was slow to dry and still wet.

He got off to a good start, however, too much wheel spin dulled acceleration and caused him to fall to 5th. Karthikeyan could avoid a jumble to keep 11th position and drove the opening lap.

This Twin Ring Motegi is very hard to overtake, so both Nojiri and Karthikeyan had to shorten time lap by lap, watching their competitors' moves to make a pit stop early.

Nojiri made a pit stop on Lap23, in the middle stage of the race, and returned to the course without a mistake. However, since he could not earn a enough margin, he doped one position down to 6th. Karthikeyan made a pit stop on Lap28, and succeeded to raise 2 position up to 9th.

In the latter half of the race, Nojiri led the group of 4 cars fighting for 6th. Checking each other and trying to overtake others, the deadlock continued to the end. Finally, 52-lap race came to the end with Nojiri in 6th and Kathikeyan in 9th.

#40: Tomoki Nojiri Position 6th (2nd among HONDA users)

It is for sure that the wet inner side of the course was a disadvantage, but because I couldn't take the lead at starting , the race development became severe.

I am getting a good feeling about my car partially. Balance change tends to be too much compared to change of surface condition and this might not be good enough.

Next AUTOPOLIS is also a circuit where QF position and starting is very important. I will aim for victory showing Team's substantial performance ability.



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#41: Narain Karthikeyan Position 9th (4th among Honda users)

It may seemed a boring race, but I competed desperately together with Team to earn some points. In 1st stint, I couldn't pick up the pace because of tire slide, but in 2nd stint, I could drive faster than Yamamoto ahead. Only, for it is hard to pass a car in MOTEGI, I had to finish the race behind him. I am disappointed that I didn't get any points, but I felt a certain reaction from the car during the race. AUTOPOLIS is my team's favorite circuit, so I am looking forward to next race.

Translated by Mariko Nakayama