

Qualifying Report 2015/9/12 Rd-5 Autopolis

Weather : Cloudy/Fair

Temperature : 28°C

19cars

The only international circuit in Kyushu, AUTOPOLIS, which is along ASO GeoPARK is now in the middle in autumn, with a chill wind in spite of the temperature. Only three more races left including this one. DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING is now 4th in team ranking and 1st among HONDA users, but it is going to be a very important race to move on to the top 3.

DOCOMOTEAMDANDELION RACING checked the condition of the cars and the surface with used tires. Having good feeling, Nojiri in 1^{st} and Karthikeyan in 2^{nd} went for attack in last 5min.

Nojiri recorded the 5th lap time. However, Karthikeyan went out of the course at the 4th corner, and after coming back on the course, he finished in 17th.

Following QF2, Nojiri moved on to QF3 in 4th position, even though he felt the balance change of the car due to the surface condition change.

In QF3, Nojiri adjusted set-up slightly and took off last of all. He warmed the tires carefully and started an attack lap. However, he locked break at 1st corner. He pulled himself together, and tried again. But, tire performance was declined at that time, and also he was blocked by a car driving slowly. After all, he finished QF3 in 8th.

#40: Tomoyuki Nojiri Position 8th (QF1 5th, QF2 4th, QF3 8th) 2nd among Honda users I made a mistake and I was caught in the traffic……QF was over without bringing my best. All the issues were settling and I had very good feeling, though.
Tomorrow, I and my team will show our real strength. Effort must produce fine results.

#41: Narain Karthikeyan Position 17th (QF1 17th) 8th among Honda users The set-up which was brought after examining the results of last 4 races closely with engineers was very good from the start, and I was confident of competing enough. At the beginning of QF, I recorded 2nd fastest time. I concentrated on the attack lap, but I made a mistake at the 4th corner, and went out of the course. I am irritated with myself because I couldn't leave good results, even in good condition, again after Rd4 Motegi. I will shift my feelings tomorrow, and fight for a higher ranking.