



# DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING

## Team Release

### Race Report

#### 2015/9/13 Rd-5 AUTOPOLIS

Weather : Cloudy/Clear Temperature : 20°C 19 cars

Audience : 6,980/12<sup>th</sup> (Sat.)、15,010/13<sup>th</sup> (Sun)

Mt. ASO is an active volcano still emitting smoke since the violent eruption which created ASO Caldera. And, at AUTOPOLIS surrounded by the beautiful caldera, Rd5, beginning of 2015 season's latter half is held.

With what strategy dose each team challenge this hi-speed and technical course where is difficult to overtake. Team's wisdom and driver's technique will greatly affect the race development.

Nojiri in the 4<sup>th</sup> row started late, and also placed himself badly in the group. He dropped 5 position down to 13<sup>th</sup>, while Karthikeyan chose an exquisite driving line to avoid a traffic and drove the opening lap in 12<sup>th</sup>, 5 position up.

AUTPOLIS is a circuit where a burden on tires is huge and passing another is difficult. On Lap 9, the team called Karthikeyan in the pit on Lap 9, because he was caught by Caldarelli driving at a good pace. They hustled him off to the course after changing only rear tires and feeding fuel.

However, Izawa driving at a slow pace without changing tires was in front of him. Karthikeyan tried to pass him, but had to drive slowly for a while.

Nojiri waited to make a pit stop until Lap 43 to raise his position, however, he had trouble passing Tsukakoshi and couldn't quicken his pace keeping 10<sup>th</sup> position. He shortened time difference between a car ahead gradually to earn some points, but he finished the race in 10<sup>th</sup>. Karthikeyan finished in 14<sup>th</sup>.

#40: Tomoki Nojiri Position 10<sup>th</sup> (3<sup>rd</sup> among HONDA users)

I couldn't match the timing of disengaging the clutch at start, and couldn't get a good spot, so I dropped position much. I have a wonderful car, and I have a confidence in quickness, and yet I finished QF and the race without showing my ability. Next SUGO is where I won for the first time last year. So, I will regain my condition and recover.



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#41: Narain Karthikeyan Position 14<sup>th</sup> (6<sup>th</sup> among Honda users)

I made a good start with a good line and raised my position greatly. Team's pit stop strategy was precise, too. However, Car #11 had spoiled it and caused me losing lots of time. I used the overtake system, but I couldn't pass him. All the worse, I damaged tires and the latter half was tough. I had a good feeling about my car in both QF and the race, so I will focus on QF first at next SUGO.

Translated by Mariko Nakayama