



Qualifying Report

2015/10/17 Rd-6 SPORTSLAND SUGO

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

Only two races left in 2015 season. Sportsland SUGO, where is tough up-and down, technical and extremely high speed, is known as a difficult course to overtake, so QF is more important than other races.

Nojiri who left the pit to check his car and the surface condition went off the course at Corner two, and the session was interrupted by a red flag condition. He could barely go back on-track and returned to the pit. After changing the broken front wing, he tried to attack, however, he ended up with a 10th place.

Karthikeyan was caught in the traffic because of his bad lining during an attack, and also he had a trouble with the sift-up display. He finished QF with a 16th place. In following QF2, Nojiri who took off with a small adjustment, warmed tires carefully and started to attack. But he made small mistake, so he cooled down once, and attacked again on Lap 4. He moved on to QF3 in 8th place, last to clear QF2. In QF3, Nojiri gained a distance ahead and behind while warming tires, and attacked on Lap 3. Driving without a mistake, he still could not reduce time difference between himself and the cars ahead, so he finished QF3 in 5th .

#40: Tomoyuki Nojiri Position 5th (QF1 10th, QF2 8th, QF3 5th) 2nd among Honda users

I had a good feeling during free practice with a good balance of the car. It continued through QF, but I couldn't get enough grip.

I am frustrated that I will start from the third row with only 3/100 sec difference from the 4th place starting from the second row.

I have a confidence in the set-up for race. I will focus on starting first and do whatever I have to do.

#41: Narain Karthikeyan Position 16th (QF1 16th) 8th among Honda users

Car balance was so good without any problems. Only, I wasn't good at traffic management. I went off the line and picked up rubber debris, so I couldn't get enough grip, also, the shift light didn't work because of the error of steering dash panel, and so on. I just couldn't focus on the qualify.

I am disappointed that I couldn't show the potential of the car which our team has. Tomorrow, I have to start from behind and SUGO is a narrow and eventful course. I will survive and fight for a higher rank.