



DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING

Team Release

Race Report

2015/10/18 Rd-6 Sportsland SUGO

Weather : Clear Temperature : 22°C 19 cars

Audience : 6,300/17th (Sat.)、12,400/18th (Sun)

There are only two races left in 2015 season. So far, Honda users did not stand on the podium except Karthikeyan who won 3rd place in the season opener, and Nojiri who was also in 3rd in Rd 2.

Sportsland SUGO is the circuit where Nojiri successfully won the race as a rookie last year. Here, Honda hopefully will be competitive again.

Nojiri, starting from the third row, got away excellently, but there was no space to pass a car in the narrow SUGO circuit, he just kept 5th position. Karthikeyan, who made good starts for the last several races, made a perfect start here and raised 4 positions to finish the opening lap in 12th.

Nojiri dove improving his own best lap again and again. However, he began to catch up a-lap-down cars around Lap 20 and lost a lot of time to overtake them. After the middle stage, Nojiri, who was keeping his fast pace, targeted Yamamoto, virtually in 2nd position. Monitoring time difference between these two, the team instructed Nojiri to make his pit-stop on Lap 53, the last stage of the race. He went back on-track after refueling only, however, he could not get in front of Yamamoto by a narrow margin. Nojiri continued to push until the end, and by only 0.8 sec, didn't reach for 2nd. He finished the race in 3rd, the second time on the podium this season.

Karthikeyan, in the group of 6 cars fighting for 8th place, kept exerting pressure on others everywhere. After all the exciting laps, he ended up with a 13th place.

#40: Tomoki Nojiri Position 3rd (2nd among HONDA users / recorded fastest lap)

In free practice on Saturday, I felt power to get the pole position, but I was 5th in QF actually. If I had grabbed a little higher rank in QF, I could have finished in 2nd or more. I took so much time to deal with a-lap-down cars. My car was very good, and I am happy that I recorded the fastest lap, but at the same time, I am feeling I still have issues. I will prepare for the final race at SUZUKA, focusing on the pole position.



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#41: Narain Karthikeyan Position 13th (6th among Honda users)

I could drive at a good pace in the race. Overtaking was hard because of the narrow course in SUGO, but I enjoyed competing with my rivals. Especially because of that, I have to break through the situation that I cannot leave a good result because of a poor result of QF. I will reconsider my driving, analyze the situation with my team, so that next SUZUKA, the final, will be a satisfying race for myself.