



## DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING Team Release

### Race Report

#### 2015/11/8 Rd-7 Suzuka Circuit

Weather: Rainy Temperature: 15°C 19cars

Audience: 13,500/7<sup>th</sup> (Sat.) 16,000/8<sup>th</sup> (Sun.)

JAF SUZUKA Grand Prix, the starting point of Japanese top formula, began here in Suzuka Circuit in 1963. This glorious title, revived for the first time in 28 years, will be held as the season finals of SUPER FOMULA this year, too.

DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING had mounted on the podium in the season opener SUZUKA, Rd2 Okayama and Rd6 SUGO, and had constantly earned points. At this point, all the drivers using HONDA have no chance of winning the championship any more, however, there will be intense competition for the big title of JAF SUZUKA Grand Prix in the last race of the season.

Race 1 was 20-lap race held in the morning.

Because of heavy rain, Race 1 began with a rolling start led by a safety car.

Sprint race of only 20 laps was so exciting from the beginning.

Nojiri passed one car sideswiping at Chicane on Lap 3 and moved to 8<sup>th</sup> position. Although the race continued rough with cars going off the course, retiring and so on, the two cars of the team dealt these happenings appropriately. Nojiri raised 4 positions up to 5<sup>th</sup>, and Karthikeyan raised 6 positions to 12<sup>th</sup> at the end of Race 1.

Race 2 was 28-lap race.

It kept on raining in the afternoon, thus surface condition was not stable. Team continuously checked the surface until just before a start, then send the drivers off to the grid. A breath-taking start was redone because of a disabled car. Though it was tough for drivers whose concentration power is at its peak, the race restarted 15min later.

Nojiri rushed to First Corner with three other cars side by side. One car went off the course, and Nojiri stayed in 3<sup>rd</sup> same as his starting position. However, he noticed malfunction in engine and gear box around Lap 5. He managed to stay on-track, but at last, his car became out of control and he had to make his pit-stop on Lap 10. Despite the mechanics' hard work, he retired from the race because of a trouble in electric system.

Karthikeyan raised two positions up to 12<sup>th</sup> by his favorite quick start. However, he sideswiped Hirakawa at Degner Curve and lost the front wing. He went to the pits to change the wing, and went back on-track far behind in the rearmost position. There, Karthikeyan pushed so hard every lap that in the end he caught up to the



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group ahead recording the fastest lap. He finished the race in 14<sup>th</sup> position where he started.

#40: Tomoki Nojiri Race 1; Position 5<sup>th</sup>, Race 2; Retired

2015 Season Driver Ranking 7<sup>th</sup> (2<sup>nd</sup> among HONDA users)

In Race 1, it was good that I could raise my position from the middle of the group where it was very hard to overtake.

However, I had to retire Race 2 because of a trouble in the electric system. I am disappointed all the more, since it was the last race of the season.

Last year, as a rookie, I fully realized my unskillfulness and the difference in performance level from others. This season, I have a confidence that I gained a skill to compete even in a difficult situation.

It meant a lot to have progressed towards victory with Team all through the season, and it was nice to earn points constantly, but it was a problem that I couldn't win a race. I will continue moving forward to be faster and stronger so that next year will be one of my best seasons.

Thank you very much for your support all year.

#41: Narain Karthikeyan Race 1; 12<sup>th</sup>, Race 2; 14<sup>th</sup> (Fastest Lap)

2015 Season Driver Ranking 11<sup>th</sup> (4<sup>th</sup> among HONDA users)

My car was always good through Race 1 and 2, and was reliable in any condition. So I could risk pushing for a higher position. As a result, I broke the front wing, but it was also true I was fast enough to record the fastest lap.

Through the season, I couldn't leave good results because of piling up small mistakes. It was disappointing that the good feeling about a car and a race did not lead to the good results we planned.

Thanks to fans all the way from my home country India, enthusiastic Japanese fans, sponsors and Team crews, I could fight my second season of SF at full force. I am not satisfied with my results, but at the same time, I can tell I have improved myself and I feel a certain response to my efforts.

I am grateful for your support. Thank you very much!

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2015 Season Team Ranking 5<sup>th</sup> (1<sup>st</sup> among HONDA users)