



Qualifying Report

2016/4/23 Rd-1 Suzuka Circuit

Weather : cloudy/sunny Temperature : 25°C 19cars

Super Formula 2016 season, which had become big news for participation of Stoffel Vandoorne, 2015 GP2 champion and a current reserve driver for McLaren Honda, and adoption of YOKOHAMA TIRE instead of Bridgestone, finally opened at SUZUKA.

In knock-out QF1, both Nojiri and Vandoorne checked car balance and track condition with used tires first, and then attacked with new tires in last 7min. However, the attack lap was interrupted by red flag because of a car spun. Only 3min remained. Concentrating on one attack, they flew out as soon as the track was cleared. Nojiri finished in 9th position, Vandoorne in favorable 3rd position, and they both moved on to QF2.

In Following QF2, Vandoorne went on the truck earlier than anybody and recorded 4th fastest lap.

Again, red flag condition was thrown because of a car spun, and Nojiri had to stop attacking. After the car was removed from the track, he only had 3min to make one attack. He recorded his best time in Sec1 and 3, however, he finished in 8th position, barely moving on to QF3.

Finally in QF3, Nojiri and Vandoorne kept shortening their laps. At the end, Vandoorne finished in 4th by only 0.01sec, and Nojiri was just 0.002sec behind Vandoorne to be in 5th place.

#40: Tomoyuki Nojiri Position 5th (QF1 9th, QF2 8th, QF3 5th) 3rd among Honda users

It was rough QF and I almost failed to get through QF2. I am glad I could drive in QF3. My car's condition was not bad, but not satisfying, so, we have to improve it for the race. Starting from 5th position is good enough for the podium. I hope both Vandoorne and I will mount the podium at the season opener SUZUKA.

#41: Stoffel Vandoorne Position 4th (QF1 3rd, QF2 4th, QF3 4th) 2nd among HONDA users

I think I did well for first Super Formula QF. My team prepared the best car at free practice in the morning. QF was good but I had a lot to learn, like an attack lap without a trifling mistake, change of track condition, and so on. Starting from 4th and 5th position is good for team, so we will get ready for tomorrow.