



DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING

Team Release

Race Report

2016/4/24 Rd-1 Suzuka Circuit

Weather: Cloudy Temperature: 22°C 19cars

Audience: 22,000/23rd (Sat.) 32,000/24th (Sun.) Total 54,000

It was cloudy and thus a little chilly on a race day at SUZUKA.

The first race adopting YOKOHAMA TIRE was expected to be controlled not only by a driver's tire management, team strategy and a pit stop, but also by luck and timing.

Vandoorne, starting from the fourth spot on the grid, the second row, made a steady start, and raised one position up to 3rd. Nojiri also made a good start, however, there was space only on the out-side and it caused him to drop to 7th on the opening lap. Then, he fought severely for keeping that position against Lotterer until making his pit stop on Lap 29.

The top three started to prepare for a pit stop around Lap 30. Yamamoto in the lead and Vandoorne in 3rd came to the pits on Lap 31. Both had re-fuel only, then went back on-track. Checking their move, Kunimoto in 2nd made his pit stop on next lap and also got out the pits without changing tires. All of them stayed in their positions until near the end of the race.

Nojiri who had a hard time maintaining tire balance could not drive at a quick pace, and finally on Lap40, he enabled Baguette to pass to drop his position to 9th. He kept pushing very hard for points, however, he ended his race in 9th place.

Vandoorne pressed Kunimoto close watching for a chance to pass several times, only Kunimoto was never off his guard. Vandoorne kept his pace and position of 3rd. He made brilliant debut in Super Formula ending up on the podium.

#40: Tomoki Nojiri Position 9th (6th among HONDA users)

It was a tough race, but still I could understand characteristic value of YOKOHAMA Tire through the race and found a lot of tips for next race. I will work on improving strength and fixing faults of the car with my team crew. Vandoorne left a remarkable result in his first Super Formula race. Next time, I hope both Vandoorne and I will stand on the podium, off course I will be on higher place. For that, the entire team should work all together with a sense of urgency, so that the car and I myself could move forward.



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#41: Stoffel Vandoorne Position 3rd (2nd among IHONDA users)

My first Super Formula weekend has become a wonderful starting point. It is my pleasure to participate in this high-level series and compete with experienced drivers. I had been preparing for the race aiming for the win. I am glad I could bring home points especially at Suzuka where is hard to overtake. It was also very nice that two Honda drivers mounted on the podium. I will go for the next race with more motivation.