



DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING *Team Release*

Race Report

2016/5/29 Rd-2 OKAYAMA International Circuit

Weather : Cloudy/Rainy Temperature : 23°C 19 cars

Audience : 4,500/28th (Sat.)、 7,000/29th (Sun) 11,500/total

Race day at Okayama International Circuit was cloudy in the morning, during free practice. Shortly after 11 o'clock, it started to rain, and the race was going to be held under a fully wet condition.

The rain had gotten heavier, so the race opened with a safety car leading.

While 19 cars continued running in formation, the team considered several options, and instruct Vandoorne a pit stop. He went back on-track in the rear of the formation after his car fuelled. 7 cars followed his motion and made a pit stop one after another. Thus Vandoorne became 13th, at the head of the group who came out of the pits. It was a strategy that he could easily jump up his position for a victory when the race started after a while.

On the other hand, Nojiri who was in the leading group hoped safety car's stay. If driving in formation was dragged, he would not need to fuel his car and could compete for a victory in this position. On Lap 6, Oliveira retired due to a trouble, so the formation continued with Nojiri in 4th and Vandoorne in 12th.

However, the rain got even heavier, and the organization raised a red flag on Lap 9 with a safety car to interrupt the race. Though the restoration of good weather was hoped, at 4:05pm, the organizer abandoned re-start. Nojiri in 4th place eared half of championship points because the total laps were below 75% of the race distance.

#40: Tomoki Nojiri Position 4th (3rd among HONDA users)

It was raining so hard that I could hardly stay on track. Still, I am disappointed we couldn't re-start. Team strategy would have worked, if the safety car leading had lasted longer and the race had been re-started.

I found a weak point this weekend, so, I will improve it with my team to be more competitive by next round at Fuji.



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#41: Stoffel Vandoorne Position 12th (6th among HONDA users)

I was amazed at the crazy amount of rain in Japan. It wasn't really a race because we just ran several laps behind a safety car. The rain was getting worse and worse, so I think they made a right decision to cancel the race, because the condition was impossible for 19 cars to run on track. It wasn't very good weekend, but I enjoyed Pit-Walk surrounded by fans after the race. I will concentrate and focus on next race at Fuji.