



**Engine Manufacturer Testing and
Rookie Driver Tryouts Report
2016/11/24 SUZUKA**

Manufactures and Rookie Testing, an annual event just before off-season, was held at SUZUKA where Super Formula final round took place last month.

Besides the team's ace Nojiri, DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING appointed Takuya Izawa, who was his team mate and won the team's championship title in 2012, for this test. The morning session started under wet conditions because of the rain last night. However, the surface became dryer gradually. They executed the test programs focusing on gathering basic data and confirming new set-up.

In the afternoon, the weather was stable and the sun came out time to time. Nojiri reflected upon 2016 season, and made the test program for the next season. Izawa also pushed hard from the beginning. Both of them showed their ability.

In last one hour, Nojiri and Izawa tested 2017 spec tires, and marked the course record. In last 10 minutes, all drivers started to attack just like a real race. Nojiri's driving was outstanding and he was ahead overall. Izawa drove Dandelion's SF14 for the first time but steady, and finished the test in 10th place overall.

#40: Tomoki Nojiri Position 1st overall (1st among HONDA users)

I could try a lot of things. I checked the difference of set-up and driving style between Vandoorne and me so that I could learn merits and demerits. I think now I can bring out more potential of a car and tires under changing conditions and temperature.

To compete in Super Formula Championship, we have to prepare everything perfectly because each team has such a close potential to each other. This test was a good kickoff for next season.

#41: Takuya Iwaza Position 10th overall (4th among HONDA users)

It has been three seasons since I drove a DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING car last time, and I was surprised that I had basically same feeling about the car as I did about SWIFT when I won the team's championship title in 2012. I think it's because Team DANDELION always keeps consistency to make a fast car either with SWIFT chassis or DALLARA chassis. I tried 2017 spec tires, and I am sure I will be able to shorten my laps with them. I don't know about next season yet, but I hope to compete with this team and win.