



DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING

Team Release

Race Report

2017/9/10 Rd-5 AUTOPOLIS

Weather : Clear Temperature : 24°C 19 cars

Audience : 4,400/ 9th(Sat.)、10,050/ 10th(Sun)

With a spell of fine weather, Super Formula Rd5 was held at Autopolis International Course for the first time in two years. Same as Rd4 at Motegi, 2spec-tire regulation was used at this circuit famous for its high-speed and technical course which is tough for tires. What kind of strategies, such as a choice of tires or timing of making a pit stop, would each team carry out? It was expected that an instantaneous decision make would change a game development.

Nojiri who was starting from the pole position made a good start. He went into First Corner first and began to break away from the main pack. Izawa also made a good start, however, he got involved a incident of a spinning car and overran First Corner to drop his position down to 17th. Some drivers made their pit stops in the early stage, and some drivers went for 2-stop strategy. There were varieties of intentions held in the race. DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING called Izawa, who raised his position up to 5th with soft tires, in to the pits on Lap23 to change to medium tires, and send him back to the track right after perfect pit work.

Towards the end of the race, Nojiri went back to the pits on Lap38 when competitors' laps had reached their peaks. The team changed his tires to soft without a mistake, however, it took a little time to refuel and he became 8th position. Just when he started to overtake as many cars as he could, he got too close to three cars ahead in First Corner while braking. He crashed into two of them and lost his front wing. He came back to the pits immediately and then went on-track again, but he missed out on a chance for victory. He finished the race in 14th.

Izawa, who was pushing hard for a point-paying position, was hit from behind by Kogure on Lap40. He changed the damaged tire in the pits and went back on-track, however, he ended up in 15th position.



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#40: Tomoki Nojiri Position 14th (5th among HONDA users)

In QF where I took the pole position, in the race where I struck a stable pace, and at the start with confident, the set-up of my car was always so positive. However, I couldn't grasp ongoing situations in pit-stop strategy, and the crash after leaving the pits was totally my mistake. I am very disappointed that I couldn't lead the pole position to victory. I have to work on team strategy as well as my mental training for SUGO.

#41: Takuya Izawa Position 15th (6th among HONDA users)

Even though I scrapped another car after starting, I could still compete for points, but because of the crash in the final part of the race, I got flat tire, and blew the chance. I will try hard to produce results in two races left.