



DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING

Team Release

Qualifying Report

2017/9/9 Rd-5 AUTOPOLIS

Weather: Fine Temperature : 31°C 19cars

Due to the damage of the buildings and the track caused by Kumamoto Earthquake last April, 2016 season race was canceled at Autopolis International Circuit, the only international circuit in Kyushu. So, Super Formula race is held for the first time in two years.

2spec-tire regulation. How long will soft tires keep high performance on the track with large difference in height and so many middle/high speed corner ? Now, special attention knock-out QF starts.

In knock-out QF1, two cars of DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING checked their cars and surface conditions with new medium tires first. Having good feeling, they started to attack in last 5min. Right after Izawa finished his attack lap in 7th position, the session was interrupted by red flag because of a car which had gone out of track. It seemed tough for Nojiri who was in the middle of his attack, however, he made it perfectly in re-started session and became 2nd with used tires.

In following QF2, soft compound tires were fitted. Both drivers went on-track in last 4min, after adjusting car balance to the condition change. Even though being blocked by a slow car in Sec2, Nojiri recorded the second fastest time. On the other hand, Izawa lost a lot of time because of the same slow car, and finished QF in 12th position.

In QF3, Nojiri warmed up tires carefully, then, started to attack. He could not go fast in Sec1, however, showed incredible speed in Sec2 and Sec3. Finally, he took the pole position marking a new course record.

#40: Tomoki Nojiri Position 1st (QF1 2nd, QF2 2nd, QF3 1st) 1st among HONDA users

So far this season, I couldn't get good results even though I was confident of my team's potential. Today, I became a course record holder in two rounds in a row, and took the pole position. I am very happy that it shows my team's true strength.

I will plan a race strategy with my team to be the first to cross the finish line.



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#41: Takuya Izawa Position 12th (QF1 12th, QF2 12th) 4th among HONDA users

I had a good feeling since free practice yesterday, and I went into QF with confidence. However, I couldn't bring out my best because I got stuck in traffic and other reasons. Tomorrow, tire management may affect the ranking a lot. I will show my ability and also my team's, and will leave a good result behind.