



DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING

Team Release

Qualifying Report

2019/4/20 Rd-1 Suzuka Circuit

Weather : sunny Temperature : 20℃ 20cars

In 2019 season, new chassis 'SF19' was adopted, and both the engine and tires were updated. This new car had showed its potential by setting a new course record during the official test in off-season. Also, the line-up of drivers were changed including seven rookies from around the world.

DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING accepted 2018 SF champion Naoki Yamamoto, and Nirei Fukuzumi, who attended FIA F2 championship in Europe and came back strong. Car numbers were changed to '1' and '5'. The team is ready to go into Super Formula new era.

In knock-out QF1, all cars began to attack with medium tires. Soon after it started, QF1 was interrupted by red flag because of a car crashed in Corner 1.

It was restarted with 15 min remaining, however, a series of accident brought red flag condition tree times. Attacking in four minutes left, Fukuzumi reached 4th position and Yamamoto gained 5th. They both made it to QF2.

In following QF2, where all the cars attacked with soft tires, Yamamoto kept renewing his best time. However, he was blocked by a car ahead in Chicane and lost time. He ended up in 5th place. Fukuzumi drove as fast as Yamamoto and gained 4th place. They moved on to QF3.

Yamamoto who aimed for 1st position changed set-up a little for attacking. Although he had no mistakes in QF3, it was not enough and he became 3rd position. Fukuzumi could not shorten his time in Sec1, and ended up in 4th.

#1: Naoki Yamamoto Position 3rd (QF1 5th, QF2 5th, QF3 3rd) 3rd among HONDA users
It was my first QF with DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING, and off course, I was aiming at the pole position. So, I am a little disappointed with the result, but Fukuzumi who is in 4th position and I will start from the second row, where we can go for the win. I will change my focus in a positive way, and will examine strategy and set-up with my team to cross the goal line first.



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#5: Nirei Fukuzumi Position 4th (QF1 4th, QF2 4th, QF3 4th) 4th among Honda users
From QF1 to QF3, I had a good feeling and I could attack without a mistake. However, the result shows that I could do more. I learned much about the necessity of working on the set-up. Tomorrow, I think the team strategy and a start will be the key for the race. I will push aggressively and aim to reach the podium together with Yamamoto.



DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING

Team Release

Race Report

2019/4/21 Rd-1 Suzuka Circuit

Weather: sunny Temperature: 22°C, 20cars

Audience: 23,000/20th (Sat.) 35,000/21st(Sun.) 58,000 total

Super Formula has entered a new era adopting new chassis 'SF19' and also with the updated engine and tires. As a large audience looked on, a battle to determine the fastest man began with twenty drivers including seven rookies in fine weather.

DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING placed Yamamoto in the third position and Fukuzumi in the fourth, hoping for their good start.

Yamamoto showed an excellent start and entered Corner 1 in second position. However, Yamamoto wearing medium tires was overtaken by a car with soft tires one after another, in spite of trying very hard to block it. He struggled with speed difference between two types of tire.

Fukuzumi stalled on a start and dropped his position down to 7th.

When SC came in because of the crush on Lap 9, the team called two cars into the pits at the same time, and changed to soft tires and refueled. While Yamamoto went back on track without any trouble, Fukuzumi's engine stalled, and again he dropped his position. Using the new overtake system and managing tire wear, Yamamoto kept the second position, and Fukuzumi raised his position up to 8th. However, Fukuzumi was imposed SC re-start penalty and he became 11th position.

Surviving the tempestuous race with Four-time SC condition, eight cars retired, and seven cars penalized, Yamamoto ended up on the podium in second place, and Fukuzumi finished Super Formula new era opener in 11th place with no point.

#1: Naoki Yamamoto Position 2nd (1st among HONDA users)

First of all, I thank my team for preparing such a brilliant car to perform wonderfully, and thank all the supporting companies. It was the first race after my transfer. It means a lot that I raised my position in QF and finished the rough race in this position. This is absolutely a good start, so, I will buckle down and charge headlong for champion.



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#5: Nirei Fukuzumi Position 11th (5th among HONDA users)

I couldn't start as I had imaged. I recovered from that delay to the point-paying position once, but in the latter half, I was penalized because of my own mistake. I realized how difficult and important it was to produce a good result even in such a rough race development. About the car and my team, I felt positive feeling all through the weekend, and I can keep this motivation to go into next Autopolice that has the different characteristic track.