



**DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING**  
*Team Release*

## **Race Report**

**2019/10/27 Rd-7 Suzuka Circuit**

Weather: sunny Temperature: 23°C, 20cars

Audience: 13,500/26<sup>th</sup> (Sat.) 22,500/27<sup>th</sup>(Sun.) 36,000 total

The last round of 2019 Super Formula at Suzuka is held as the finale to the fierce battles for the title covering seven rounds.

Fukuzumi who is eager to win his first victory at last starts from the fourth grid, and Yamamoto who aims to win second consecutive championship starts from the fifth grid. Both of them are aflame with enthusiasm.

Yamamoto with medium tires made a good start and jumped up to the third place. Fukuzumi followed Yamamoto to the First Corner in forth. Letting the competitors with soft tires go ahead, they kept their positions tenaciously with medium tires. Yamamoto made his pit stop on L7 and Fukuzumi did on L8 to change to soft tires. Going back on-track, they quickened their pace to run after the drivers started with soft tires, who made their pit stops one after another from L15. When all the drivers finished the mandatory tire-change, Fukuzumi was in the third position and Yamamoto was in the fifth.

Nojiri and Cassidy in the lead wore medium tires, however, Fukuzumi's soft tires were getting worn down. He tried to overtake them again and again, but in vain. He finished the race in third, on the podium for the first time.

Yamamoto pushed hard without giving up hope of winning the title, however, since he wore out his tires during the tough battle in the middle stage, he could not raise his position and ended up in the fifth place.

Cassidy who finished in second outboxed Yamamoto and won the Drivers' Championship. Yamamoto became second in the Drivers' standings and Fukuzumi was seventh.

DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING prevailed over VANTELIN TEAM TOM'S and won the second Teams' championship, its first in seven years.



## DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING Team Release

#1: Naoki Yamamoto Position 5th (2nd in 2019 Drivers' Standings)

I made a good start and raised my position up to the third. I was having a good feeling about my driving, but I couldn't quickened my pace as I expected to. After changing to soft tires, I had to save tire performance for the latter half, so I couldn't protect my lead.

The fact that Fukuzumi finished third and DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING won the teams' title proves my team's strength, and I'm glad I could contribute to its achievement made by the whole team together.

I wish I could have adorned perfection itself by winning the drivers' title. I am disappointed all the more because I know my team's eagerness for the championship through the season.

I'd like to express my gratitude to fans who cheered for us, and to the sponsors and my team who provided the best environment this season.

#5: Nirei Fukuzumi Position 3rd (7th in 2019 Drivers' Standings)

I am glad that I finished in the third place and climbed on the podium, and at the same time I am disappointed because I was so close to the top.

My performance was good from QF, and my car was in good condition at the race, so I could push hard for victory.

In the early stage of this season, I couldn't bring good results. I was in the fifth place at best. However, I learned a lot from Yamamoto and I am just happy that I contributed to the team's victory especially in the last round. I will use the experience of this season in the future.

I challenged with all my might for a year, and I hope you will support me next season

DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING

2019 Team Standing 1<sup>st</sup> TEAM CHAMPION