



DOCOMO TEAM
DANDELION RACING
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PERFORMANCE
PERFECTION

DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING
Team Release

Qualifying Report

2020/9/27 Rd-2 OKAYAMA International Circuit

Weather : Fine Temperature : 26°C 19cars

Under the measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19, Super Formula 2020 season had finally opened at the end of August. Taking continuous thorough preventive measures, Rd 2 was held at Okayama International Circuit.

In Knock-out QF1 with two-group format, Yamamoto in Grp A went on-track in the last 5 min, monitoring competitors moves. He warmed up his tires carefully, then attacked on his third lap. In spite of a breaking mistake, he moved on to QF2 in the 6th position.

Fukuzumi took the same strategy as Yamamoto. He went on-track with 5 min remaining and started to attack on his third lap. He marked good time in Sec 1, however, spun halfway round in Sec 2 and lost much time. He became 8th place not to make it to QF2.

Since 14 cars attack in 7 min- session at Okayama International Circuit which has the longest distance course among the circuits for the 2020 season, the timing of on-track is extremely important. So, in the following QF2, Yamamoto went on-track with less than 6 min remaining, considering other drivers. He could not drive fast in Sec 1, and made it through QF3 in the fourth.

In QF3, after adjusting the set-up slightly, Yamamoto warmed up his tires carefully as usual. Just when he started to attack on his third lap, a car behind him span, and the yellow flag was hoisted. He was supposed to receive no affection because it occurred behind him, however, he slowed down because of the team's erroneous determination. He finished QF in 7th place.

#5: Naoki Yamamoto Position 7th (QF1 Grp A 6th , QF2 4th,QF3 7th) 3rd among Honda users

From the Official Test yesterday, my car's adjustment went well, and I was pretty sure that I could aim for 1st place until QF2 was over. However, in QF3, I couldn't keep up with the condition change, and also my team's operation did not function partially. After all, I couldn't attack satisfactorily. Still, my car is in good condition, and there will be mandatory tire change this time, so, I want to earn as many points as I can with the team's total ability.



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#6: Nirei Fukuzumi Position 16th (QF1 Grp B 8th) 7th among Honda users

It was very windy during QF and the surface condition was different from yesterday. My car was finished excellently and I was confident that I would finish in the top group. However, I lost time because of my own mistake, and so I couldn't make it through QF2. I will start from the rear part of the grid, but I will keep fighting for 51 laps and try my best to bring some points home.



Race Report

2020/9/27 Rd-2 OKAYAMA International Circuit

Weather: fine Temperature: 25°C, 19cars

Audience: 2,000/26th (Sat.) 3,500/27th (Sun.) 5,500 total

Under the clear sky of autumn without the effect from the typhoon which concerned, Rd 2 at Okayama International Circuit opened as the one-day event which held qualifications and the race on the same day.

This time, the race format includes mandatory tire change, and a pit stop to change all four tires must be made between the leading car's Lap 10 and the final lap of the 51-lap race.

Being restarted because of a car spun during the formation lap, it became a 50-lap race.

Yamamoto from the 7th grid and Fukuzumi from the 16th grid made a good start avoiding the confusion from the multiple crash, and Yamamoto became 5th while Fukuzumi jumped up to 13th position. Because of this crash, a safety car came in, and the race was restarted after Lap 7.

On Lap 10, Yamamoto was the first to make a pit stop. Fukuzumi followed him on Lap 11 and changed tires. They competed physically and mentally with rivals who took different strategies in .001 seconds. Yamamoto drove in 7th position being conscious of the leading group, and Fukuzumi raised his position up to 8th. In the final stage, Yamamoto fought very hard with Sekiguchi, however, he lost and ended up in 6th place. Fukuzumi kept the 8th position. Both drivers finished Rd 2 with points.

#5: Naoki Yamamoto Position 6th (1st among HONDA users)

I made a good start and it was good that I didn't get caught in the crash, but there was no place to go since I was on the outside of the corner and I was overtaken by a car inside. My car's set-up was so good that I kept pushing hard, but I couldn't reduce the distance to the leading group as I expected. I did fight well, earned some points, and found out good points and things to reflect on.

I will spend time before Rd3 at Sugo effectively with my team, and go into the race.



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#6: Nirei Fukuzumi Position 8th (2nd among HONDA users)

I am glad that I could deal with the confusion at the start and raised my position to the 8th taking good strategy around the tire change. However, after the middle stage, I couldn't quicken my pace. Instead of catching up with the leading group, I was closed on from behind.

Considering my starting position, I am positive about getting some points.

I need more strength totally, though.

We will restore our real performance, preparing for the next race.