



DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING

Team Release

Race Report

2017/4/23 Rd-1 Suzuka Circuit

Weather: sunny Temperature: 21°C, 19cars

Audience: 21,000/22nd (Sat.) 35,000/23rd (Sun.) 56,000 total

Super Formula 2017 season opener has finally begun in unbroken fine weather. This year, Rd1 Suzuka race distance was shortened by 50km, and it will make a racing event more 'sprint'. Also, mandatory tire change will make luck and timing to determine who wins a race, besides starting, team strategy and a pit stop. Izawa, who started from 10th grid in 5th row, made a good start and raised his position by 2. Nojiri made a smooth start, however there was no room to cut in and just kept his position.

On the opening lap, 6 cars made a pit stop right away, and changed more than one regulation tire, which was mandatory. On Lap 2, 2 more cars changed tires, then, the race was being developed by two groups, one which had changed tires and the other which had not yet.

Izawa, who took a strategy to delay a pit stop, made it on Lap14. He went back on track after 5.4sec-pit work. Nojiri started with fewer gas to break away from the leading group, however, he could not quicken his pace. At the time when he went back on track after changing 4 tires and refueling more gas than other cars, he became the tail end.

On Lap21 in the latter half of the race, a safety car came in because of a car spun. Now, there was no time difference between each car any more when the race restarted after 2 laps. Izawa finished keeping the point earning 8th position. He brought precious 1 point home. Nojiri ended in 16th.



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#40: Tomoki Nojiri Position 16th (8th among HONDA users)

I have been having difficulty utilizing characteristics of new spec YOKOHAMA tires since the official test. Although we prepared a lot for this season opener, we couldn't make them work. My pace was not good, however, I learned many things to draw on by driving through the race distance. I should take this failure as the way to progress, and I will work with my team together with feeling of tension to show my true performance in the next race. I myself and my car just keep moving ahead.

#41: Takuya Izawa Position 8th (4rd among HONDA users)

It was my first race after transfer, and I wish I could have competed in the leading group. However, considering my QF result, it was nice to get 1 point after all. There are still a lot of issues. I will compare what I perceive by driving with data from my car, and utilize it from now on. Next Okayama will use 2-race format, which means a high speed sprint race. I keep myself highly motivated to compete in the race.