



Race2 Report

2017/5/28 Rd-2 OKAYAMA International Circuit

Weather : Clear Temperature : 27°C 19 cars

Audience : 7,100/27th (Sat.)、 11,000/28th (Sun) 18,100/total

Super Formula Rd2 at Okayama International Circuit uses 2-race format.

Race2 on Sunday consists of knock-out qualifying session1 & 2 and a 51-lap race with a mandatory tire change of all 4 tires.

QF sessions are held in the morning. QF1 decides 11th to 19th, and QF2 decides the top 10 grids.

In knock-out QF1, both drivers checked track conditions and attack image with used tires on at first, and then, in last 7min, they went for attacks with new tires after warming them up. With 1min remaining, a red flag condition was thrown because of a car spun. Later, the session was extended for 2'30". They went out on track to try to make the most of the one last attack. Izawa took 8th position and moved on to QF2, while Nojiri finished 11th by 2/1000sec behind 10th position getting though QF1.

After an interval of 10min, QF2 began. Izawa adjusted the set-up slightly, and went on track in last 6min. In spite of a good feeling he had, he came in 7th by 0.6sec behind the pole position.

When Race2 was about to start, it was completely different conditions from those in the morning, with 27°C in the air and over 40°C on surface. Still, the engineers assumed that most of cars would make their pit stops on Lap1 or Lap2 because tire grip would last though this short distance with no need of fueling.

Izawa raised 2 positions up and came in to the pits on Lap2. Nojiri followed on Lap3 to change the tires. At this point, two groups were formed, those who had made their pit stops and those who had not yet. On Lap5, Izawa was in 3rd and Nojiri was in 6th of the former.

The team instructed the both drivers to quicken their pace while the two groups competed each other invisibly. In the middle of the race, around Lap20, several cars headed to the pits, and at the end of Lap35, Izawa was in 5th and Nojiri was in 11th. On Lap38, Izawa crashed in Turn2 to end the race. This accident brought a safety car in.

After the safety car came out, Nojiri pushed hard for a point-earning position, but finished Race2 in 10th.



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Team Release

#40: Tomoki Nojiri

QF: Position 11th(QF1 11th), Race2:Position 10th (3rd among HONDA users)

A good position in QF is more important here at Okayama International Circuit with 2-race format than any other circuits, but change of the conditions and the way to use tires didn't work well.

Regarding Race2, my pace became better than Race1 and I understand good and bad points.

I couldn't leave a good result, but at least I have discovered several things. I will examine them to prepare for the next race so that we will be competitive again.

#41: Takuya Izawa

QF: Position 7th (QF1 8th / QF2 7th), Race2: Retired

I am not satisfied with the result, but I was doing better and better through QFs and the races. For the top 5, I made a good start, the team crews did perfect jobs at the pits, and our strategy worked, but I span in the end. I feel sorry for my fans and my team who supported me.

Regretfully, I couldn't get any points this time, but I am competitive enough for point-earning positions. I will keep it up until next Fuji.