



Qualifying Report

2017/10/21 Rd-7 SUZUKACIRCUIT

Weather: Rain Temperature : 17°C 19Cars

The final round of 2017 Japanese SUPER FORMULA Championship is also run as 16th JAF GRAND PRIX SUZUKA.

It is 4th year for JAF GRAND PRIX to be held as SUPER FORMULA final round, which uses a two-race format as usual. Knock-out QF1 will determine grid positions for Race 1, and the result of following knock-out QF2 and QF3 will decide the starting grid for Race 2.

Knock-out QF1 for Race1 grid began in a heavy rain due to the typhoon. The two cars of TEAM DANDELION RACING which had finished the free practice in the morning with Izawa in 1st position and Nojiri in 2nd, carefully went on-track in torrential rain. However, the session was interrupted by a red flag for the first time only 3min after the start. As soon as it was restarted after 42min interval when the weather got better, a red flag condition was thrown again because of a car spun at First Corner.

At 14:50, QF1 was restarted with 14'13" remaining. While Nojiri and Izawa were making attacks improving their sector records, it was interrupted by a red flag for the third time because of a car out of track.

QF1 was restarted with 8'37" remaining even though the rain was getting stronger. Nojiri became 2nd in the first attack and Izawa became 10th. When they began their second attack laps, again, it was interrupted by a red flag because of a car spun at First Corner. It was the end of QF1 after all.

Originally, QF2 was supposed to be held here. However, due to the rough weather, QF1 was considered to be all the qualifying. In this case, the best time in QF1 should decide a grid position for Race1, and the second best time should decide that for Race2. So, in Race1, Nojiri would start from 2nd grid and Izawa would start from 10th grid. In Race2, Nojiri would start also from 2nd grid and Izawa would start from 3rd.



DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING *Team Release*

#40: Tomoki Nojiri Position 2nd for Race1, Position 2nd for Race2

Thanks to my team's strategy, especially on-track timing. While I was figuring out how and when to shorten my lap under the constantly changing conditions, I could feel my competitiveness. However, I missed out the pole position by 6/100sec, and I have to improve myself a lot.

It will still rain heavily tomorrow, but I will aim to win two races.

#41: Takuya Izawa Position 10th for Race1, Position 3rd for Race2

I had been in good condition since the free practice in the morning, and I went into QF with confidence. However, in the difficult conditions, with repeated red flag interruptions, I couldn't bring out my best. I had no chance to record the second best time, in fact, I couldn't afford to think of attacking for it. So, I was surprised to find out that I was in 3rd position for Race2. The typhoon will affect more tomorrow, and I hope for a safe race.