



Qualifying Report

2018/4/21 Rd-1 Suzuka Circuit

Weather : sunny Temperature : 23°C 19cars

In 2018 season, 2-spec-tire regulation is adopted in every rounds. Both of two different types of tire, the soft one which is excellent in grip force but non-durable and the medium one which is inferior in grip but can run stably longer, should be used. So, it could be nasty depending on each team's strategy.

I Knock-out QF1, all cars attacked with medium tires. Matsushita, who attended Super Formula for the first time, finished first showing amazing drive for a rookie. Nojiri in his 5th year moved onto QF2 in 5th position in spite of bad feeling about car balance.

In following QF2, all cars mounted soft tires. Nojiri achieved first place by a large margin. Matsushita's time was as fast as Nojiri's, however, just when he entered Sec3, a car went off the track to caused the RED flag interruption. As a result, Matsushita ended up in 12th.

Nojiri aiming for the first position again drive steady without mistake, however, he finished in 3rd by only 2/100 sec.

#5: Tomoki Nojiri Position 3rd (QF1 5th, QF2 1st, QF3 3rd) 3rd among HONDA users
It will be a long race of 300km, so I think 3rd position is good enough for winning. But I am frustrated because I was in good condition from free practice and I was aiming for pole position. I will refresh my mind and focus on finishing first.

#6: Matsushita Nobuharu Position 12th (QF1 1st, QF2 12th) 7th among HONDA users
Since I was doing well in QF1 and QF2, I was confident of finishing QF in high rank together with Nojiri.

I am so disappointed that I couldn't attack because of the RED flag.

Our cars are fast in the race, so tomorrow, I will push hard for finishing in high rank.