



DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING

Team Release

Race Report

2018/4/22 Rd-1 Suzuka Circuit

Weather: sunny Temperature: 22°C, 19cars

Audience: 22,000/21st (Sat.) 34,000/22nd (Sun.) 56,000 total

Super Formula 2018 season opener, Suzuka 2&4 Race, was held in a spell of fine weather. This year, the race distance was extended from last year's 203km to 300km, and use of two specs of tire was mandatory.

Nojiri in the third place, second row, made a good start with medium tires, but he slow down all of sudden and dropped his position to 7th. On the other hand, Matsushita chose soft tires and raised one position at start. His strategy was keep a fast pace from the beginning, and he made a pit stop on Lap15 to change to medium tires.

Nojiri made a pit stop on Lap30 to change to soft tires. By Lap35, when all the car finished making pit stops, he recovered his position to 3rd. He chased the car ahead hard, but in vain. He finish third.

Matsushita was so close to finish in the top 10, however, he span by mistake and ended his first Super Formula race in 12th place.

#5: Tomoki Nojiri Position 3rd (2nd among HONDA users)

First of all, I'd like to thank you my team for preparing the wonderful car with which I could perform incredibly, and sponsor companies which support us.

I was frustrated that I made a bad start because of my own mistake, but during the race, I calmly judged the circumstances and kept pushing.

As a result, I finished in third position, and I think means a lot for the next race.

#6: Nobuharu Matsushita Position 12th (5th among HONDA users)

I had trouble passing slow cars all through the race, and I made a mistake in the latter half. I am feeling difficulties of Super Formula.

At the same time, I had positive feeling this weekend, so I will go into next Autopolis highly keeping motivation.