



## Qualifying Report

**2018/5/12 Rd-2 AUTOPOLIS**

Weather: Fine Temperature : 18°C 19cars

This season, 2spec-tire should be used in every race.

At Autopolis, which has a lot of middle to high speed corners and large difference in height, how long soft tires keep their performance?

Attention centers on knock-out QF.

In knock-out QF1, two drivers of DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING checked their cars and surface conditions with new medium tires, and in last 4 min, they started to attack.

Nojiri recorded exceptional times in Se1 and Sec2, however Sec3, he was blocked by a slow car and become 5<sup>th</sup> position.

Matsushita who had gone out of track in free practice in the morning had to check the set up here, still finished in 4<sup>th</sup>. They moved onto QF2.

In following QF2, soft compound tires had to be mounted.

Nojiri and Matsushita adjusted car balance according to condition changes, and went on track in last 4 min.

Nojiri was blocked by slow cars again, and ended up in 8<sup>th</sup> position.

Matsushita finished in 4<sup>th</sup>, and both made to QF3.

In QF3, Matsushita attacked aggressively first, and was provisionally in 1<sup>st</sup> position. In the end, he was in 3<sup>rd</sup>. On the other hand, Nojiri started to attack after warming tires up carefully, and marked the course record to be in 1<sup>st</sup> position until Hirakawa recorded faster lap by 0.1 sec. However, Hirakawa should get 3 grid penalty for sideswipe in the last race at Suzuka. So, tomorrow, Nojiri will start in 1<sup>st</sup> and Matsushita will start in 2<sup>nd</sup> position, '1-2 start' from the front row.

#5: Tomoki Nojiri Position 2nd (QF1 5th, QF2 8th, QF3 2nd) 1st among HONDA users

I didn't have a good feeling at first, and unfortunately, I was caught in traffic in both QF1 and 2. However, I am glad I broke the course record for two years in a row, since it is a proof of my teams potential. Off course, pole position would be have nicer, though. It will rain tomorrow, but I will keep pushing to finish in first place.



## **DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING** *Team Release*

#6: Nobuharu Matsushita Position 3rd (QF1 4th, QF2 4<sup>th</sup>, QF3 3rd) 2nd among HONDA users  
QF was like feeling my way, because I went off the track and didn't have time in free practice. I think I was too impatient and it cost me time loss in QF3.  
I will leave behind good result with the total ability of mine and my team's tomorrow.