



Qualifying Report

2016/5/28 Rd-2 Okayama International Circuit

Weather : cloudy Temperature : 22°C 19cars

Last year, SUPER FORMULA was held for the first time in 7 years here at Okayama International Circuit. This second year, drivers and their teams who could adjust the performance of YOKOHAMA TIRE, newly adopted in place of BRIDGESTONE, to the truck quickly were expected to survive QF.

DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING was the only team whose both drivers went on to Q3 at SUZUKA, the season opener. Nojiri and Vandoorne got off to good start in free practice in the morning. Nojiri recorded the fastest lap and Vandoorne was in 6th.

In knock-out QF1, they both checked their plans of attack with used tires first. Then, in last 6min, they put new tires and tried to attack. Nojiri finished in 10th place and move on to QF2, although his car would need to change balance. On the other hand, Vandoorne had electrical trouble in his car, so he could not change gears and had to return to the pits. As a result, he ended QF in 16th place.

In the following QF2, after correcting balance, Nojiri made an attack lap. He had a better feeling with his car, however, could not shorten the time difference between the top. He went to QF3 in 6th.

Finally in QF3, Nojiri recorded the best time in each sector, even the second fastest lap for a time. Then, he was passed by other drivers speeding up, and finished in 5th.

#40: Tomoyuki Nojiri Position 5th (QF1 10th, QF2 6th, QF3 5th) 3rd among Honda users

In QF1, the balance was not good, but it got better as the surface condition improved. In QF3, I had confident that I could go for the pole position, so I chose a little aggressive set-up. However, lap time wasn't reduced as much as I expected. I am disappointed that what I meant well backfired on me. Tomorrow, the race might be rough because of an unstable weather. I will stay calm and focus on my drive to leave a better result than last year (3rd place in 2015).



DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING

Team Release

#41: Stoffel Vandoorne Position 16th (QF1 16th) 7th among HONDA users

I felt more and more comfortable with a car in Free Practice, and I was going to the right direction for QF. As a matter of fact, in QF, it was quite good at first. However, when attacking with new tires, electric trouble was occurred and it made me unable either to up-shift or to down-shift. I will start from 16th place, far down the grid. But, I think I will have a different opportunity tomorrow, hopefully the condition will be better and I will work away in the race.