



DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING

Team Release

Qualifying Report

2016/10/29 Rd-7 Suzuka Circuit

Weather: Cloudy Temperature: 20°C 19cars

Japanese SUPER FORMULA Championship, which opened in April here at Suzuka Circuit, has returned for the final round with 6 winners for 7 races of 6 rounds.

JAF Grand Prix Suzuka uses a two-race format. Knock-out QF1 will determine grid positions for Race 1, and following QF2 and QF3 will decide the starting grid for Race 2.

In Knock-out QF1, two cars of DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING both entered the track aiming for the pole position. Although Nojiri reduced time in Sec1 and 2, he did not do well in Sec3 and finished in 3rd position. Vandoorne could not maintain car balance, and ended up in 7th.

In following QF2, Nojiri and Vandoorne began their time attacks after changing car balance slightly. They challenged with all their might without any mistakes, but still, could not record the times they wanted in Sec3. Nojiri was in 4th and Vandoorne in 3rd.

Finally, QF3 to decide the starting positions of top 8 cars for Race2 started.

Nojiri went on track early and made his attack, carefully controlling the space between cars ahead. He finished QF3 without a mistake in 4th position. Vandoorne showed remarkable speed in Sec1 and 2, and recorded the fastest time in Sec4, however, he could not drive fastest in Sec3, so he finished in 2nd by only .005 sec.

#40: Tomoki Nojiri Position 3rd for Race1, Position 4th for Race2

I could bring out my best, but it took so long to get a satisfying set-up. Because SF car is very sensitive to a slight change of balance, I might be too carefully. The car condition was very good eventually, but not as good as the top. Tomorrow, I will focus on overtaking a car ahead, not thinking of winning, so that the race will be very exciting.

#41: Stoffel Vandoorne Position 7th for Race1, Position 2nd for Race2

I had good car balance from the beginning, but 7th place for Race1 is not very good. Changing set-up after QF1 improved my car very much. However, I am so frustrated that I could never reduce time in Sec3. 2nd position by only .005 difference is disappointing.

In Race2, tactics will be important. I will enjoy the last round of Super Formula with my team tomorrow.