



DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING

Team Release

Qualifying Report

2017/4/22 Rd-1 Suzuka Circuit

Weather : sunny Temperature : 20°C 19cars

Stoffel Vandoorne, who joined DOKOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING last year as the former GP2 Champion, had stepped up to F1. To follow his example, 5 rookies from home and abroad challenge Super Formula this season. YOKOHAMA Tire in its second year provides new spec tires, and also, version-up engines have been mounted to each car. In the spotlight, Super Formula 2017 season has opened at Suzuka Circuit.

In knock-out QF1, Nojiri, in his 4th year with DOKOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING, and Izawa, who was Nojiri's teammate until 2013 and won 2012 team title together, both went on track with used tires to check car balance and the course conditions. However, the surface condition was so different from that during the free practice in the morning, much more than expected, that large set-up modification was required.

After changing set-up, both drivers tried to attack with new tires in last 7min. Izawa managed to move on to QF2 in 14th position, but Nojiri ended up in 16th to finish his QF here.

In following QF2, Izawa went on track after adjusting set-up, and shortened his best lap. However, he could not reach 8th position for QF3 by 4/100sec.

#40: Tomoki Nojiri Position 16th (QF1 16th) 7th among HONDA users

I couldn't get enough grip from the new spec tires, and also I couldn't adjust car balance to the surface condition. Regretfully, I finished QF in QF1.

I will examine today's result with my team, and tomorrow, we will try to make it high up in the ranking with better set-up and strategy.

#40: Takuya Izawa Position 10th (QF1 14th, QF2 10th) 5th among HONDA users

Because of unexpected change of the surface condition between free practice in the morning and QF, we changed set-up greatly. We were heading in the right direction, but still we didn't get enough balance. In current Super Formula where drivers stand against each other, a slight time difference becomes great difference in position, so, I couldn't make it to QF3.

I will not start from the good position tomorrow, but with persevering efforts and strategy, I aim for the podium.