



## DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING Team Release

### Race Report

#### 2017/7/9 Rd-3 FUJI Speedway

Weather : Cloudy/Fair Temperature : 34°C 19 cars

Audience : 13,400/8<sup>th</sup> (Sat.) 21,200/9<sup>th</sup> (Sun) 34,600/Total

The opening round at Suzuka was a 200km-race, Rd2 at Okayama International Circuit used 2-sprint-race format, and Rd3 at Fuji Speedway is a 250km-race for the first time in this season. This long-distance race will test teams' general strength, unlike a sprint race in which drivers' ability is given considerable weight. It is hotter than yesterday, just like midsummer. Although there is no mandatory tire change, this race distance requires fueling, so every driver will make a pit stop. Will he change all 4 tires, only 2 tires or no tires at all? This is where a team's strategy will show.

Nojiri who could not accelerate enough at a start dropped one position. Hit by competitors on chaotic opening lap, he won a close fight for 11<sup>th</sup> position.

Izawa made a good start passing 2 cars and became 10<sup>th</sup>. He shortened his best time lap by lap. On Lap17, the team called him to the pits, and after fueling and changing only rear tires, sent him off onto the track.

On the other hand, Izawa went at a good pace though Lap31, and finally made a pit stop to change all 4 tires. Towards the end of the race, drivers who chose to change no tires could not quicken their paces, and for over 15 laps, Izawa fought for 4<sup>th</sup> position and Nojiri for 8<sup>th</sup> position. However, either of them could not overtake and they finished the long hot race on 6<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>.

**#40: Tomoki Nojiri Position 10th (4th among HONDA users)**

Because of the delay at start, I couldn't get a point. I am disappointed all the more because I drove at a good pace.

We still have unsolved problems since the beginning of 2017 season.

I understand that making a car fast is one of the abilities required of drivers, so I will examine data verified so far with my team for next Motegi. I will be faster and more competitive by then.

**#41: Takuya Izawa Position 6th (2nd among HONDA users)**

Just like in Rd2 at Okayama, I am glad that I brought home points keeping a good pace in race.

Our current issue is how fast I can drive in QF. In spite of quickness in free practice, my performance went up and down and was not stable. We will focus on resolving the issue completely to regain my strength for next race at Twin Ring Motegi.