



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 5th position.

Matsushita who had gone out of track in free practice in the morning had to check the set up here, still finished in 4th. 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 8th position.

Matsushita finished in 4th, and both made to QF3.

In QF3, Matsushita attacked aggressively first, and was provisionally in 1st position. In the end, he was in 3rd. On the other hand, Nojiri started to attack after warming tires up carefully, and marked the course record to be in 1st 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 1st and Matsushita will start in 2nd 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 4th, 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.