



## Qualifying Report 2018/5/26 Rd-3 SPORTSLAND SUGO

Weather: Fine Temperature : 26°C 18cars

SUGO round, which had been held in the end of seasons and had made a lot of dramatic scenes to control the championship before, is held as Rd3 in the early stage of this season.

Since Rd2 was cancelled due to the bad weather, each race becomes more important, and it makes this season tense and exciting.

In Knock-out QF1, two cars of DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING began to attack with medium tires. Matsushita finished second by only 3/100sec behind the top. When Nojiri was attacking with a good feeling, QF was interrupted by a red flag because of a car span just around Sec1. It was restarted with 2min and 20sec remaining. Even though Nojiri's tires were not in the best condition any more, he finished in 6th position and moved onto QF2.

In following QF2, Matsushita changed set-up a little bit and went on track with soft tires. He managed space between other cars in this short and narrow course of SUGO, and took the first place. Nojiri was 4th, and they both made into QF3.

In QF3, Matsushita went on track first and attacked one lap more than others. He warmed tires up carefully before an attack lap, however, because of the big change of the surface condition, he ended up in 5th position.

On the other hand, Nojiri exactly grasped the condition change of his favorite track, and took the pole position. He showed excellent performance with Course Record.

#5: Tomoki Nojiri Position 1st (QF1 5th, QF2 4th, QF3 1st) 1st among HONDA users

In practice session on Friday, I didn't have a good feeling about my car. However, my team brought an exact set-up and I could make the most of it in Free Practice this morning. They kept developing my car in a short period after Autopolis, and I am sure it produced good results. Race is another story. We will talk over possible strategies and will bring out our best.



## **DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING** *Team Release*

#6: Nobuharu Matsushita Position 5th (QF1 2nd, QF2 1<sup>st</sup>, QF3 5th) 2nd among HONDA users  
My car balance was very good in QF2, and I was confident about QF3. However, the surface condition changed much more than I expected, and I realized how tricky Super Formula QF was. My starting position will be good enough for the podium with the total capabilities of mine and my team's. So, I will focus on a start and aim for finishing on the podium.