



DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING

Team Release

Race Report

2018/5/27 Rd-3 SUPORTSLAND SUGO

Weather : Fine Temperature : 24°C 19 cars

Audience : 7,700/ 26th(Sat.)、16,500/ 27th(Sun)

Rd3 at Sportsland SUGO, the key to 2018 title in the early stage of the championship, started before a large crowd on the grandstand in the fresh air of May.

Nojiri in the pole position made a good start. Blocking the followers to keep his position, he ran into the first corner. Delayed by clutch handling, Matsushita was caught in traffic in the first corner, and dropped his position to 9th.

While leading Nojiri and Kobayashi in 2nd position were pushing each other hard, an accident occurred by another car on Lap16. The safety car came in to remove the disabled car. Nojiri missed the right timing to go back to the pits, and after one lap blocked by the safety car, he finally made his pit-stop. When he finished changing tires and refueling, he had to join the end of the line on-track.

Matsushita decided to stay on-track, and started to push very hard from Lap24 when the race was restarted. With various strategies going on among teams and drivers, Nojiri who fought through to the end against competitors finished in 7th. Matsushita did not reach a points-paying position and finished the 68-lap survival game in 10th position.

#5: Tomoki Nojiri 7th (3rd among HONDA users)

I couldn't match the timing of the safety car, so I missed a chance. Looking back now, I should have made my pit stop whether a safety car would come in or not. My mistake was that I didn't dare to make that decision.

I can bring out my potential stably from QF through the race. Now, I need to train to judge a situation instantly and act accordingly. Facing this issue with my team, I will improve for the next race.

#6: Nobuharu Matsushita 10th (4th among HONDA users)

I am disappointed that I made a bad start. Also, when the safety car came in, my decision turned to be a failure. I am frustrated all the more because my driving in QF and my pace in the race were good enough to compete with the leading group. Among the teams with different strategies, in conditions changing rapidly, we must stay strong. We will use this experience in preparing for FUJI.