



Race Report

2018/7/8 Rd-4 FUJI Speedway

Weather : Cloudy Temperature : 30°C 19 cars

Audience : 10,600/7th (Sat.) 20,800/8th (Sun) 31,400/Total

Race day morning opened with drizzling rain at Fuji International Speedway. It was cloudy, and sometimes the blue sky was visible before free practice. The track condition changed from wet to dry. Each car on the grid installed either soft tires or medium tires compound tires due to tactics and strategy. 15th grid start Nojiri started with medium tires. Nojiri made an excellent start and stepped up to 11th position. On lap 10, team called in Nojiri and changed to soft tire for push like a QF mode. Matsushita who chose soft tires made a remarkable start, and kept 6th position on opening lap. While the leading 8 cars ran ahead of cars behind, on Lap29, the team called in Matsushita, who could not quicken his pace in the second group competing for 4th position, to the pits to change to medium tires. Nojiri tried to position up with soft tire, but huge drop his tire performance, Nojiri finish 14th. Matsushita could not drive fast with medium tires, and finished in 9th without getting point.

#5: Tomoki Nojiri Position 14th (5th among HONDA users)

I made a good start first, and drove in 4 position up and managing tires. I changed to soft tires but I couldn't quicken my pace after that, and in result, I dropped my position. I was fast in Wet, so, I have to figure out what I needed for the low downforce track like Fuji. We will concentrate and prepare for it for next Motegi.

#6: Nobuharu Matsushita Position 9th (2nd among HONDA users)

There were ups and downs this weekend. It is important we showed good pace in wet conditions. And today, the race in dry condition was more difficult. I think I made OK start, but not good race pace with medium tire and I couldn't score points. Next Motegi is a circuit which is very tough for car and physical, so we will examine data including Nojiri's to break through this situation.