



DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING

Team Release

Qualifying Report

2018/8/18 Rd-5 TWIN RING MOTEGI

Weather: Fine Temperature : 32°C 19cars

Super Formula Rd5 was held at Twin Ring Motegi under the refreshing weather in autumn winds.

Twin Ring Motegi is one of the toughest circuits for brakes, tires and drivers, which requires continuance of full-braking into a tight corner and full acceleration. How to use soft and medium tires was the key to victory.

In knock-out QF1, the both drivers checked the surface condition for attacks with medium tires, and then, after mounting the second sets of medium tires, went on track again in last 6min. In spite of good feeling about car balance, Nojiri's lap was not so good and he was in 5th place. Matsushita overwhelmed others in every section and got 1st place. They both moved onto QF2.

In following QF2, the both drivers adjusted set-ups slightly, and started to attack with soft tires with 6min left. Making the best use of soft tires, Nojiri recorded the course record to 1st position. In the other hand, Matsushita was not fast enough on the middle-speed corners , and he became 3rd. They made through QF3.

QF3 was to determine top 8. Nojiri and Matsushita drove around carefully to put themselves into good condition before attacking. They showed remarkable performance and recorded 1st and 2nd times, however, Ishiura who attacked last was 0.05sec faster. Nojiri finished in 2nd position, and Matsushita ended up in 3rd.

#5: Tomoki Nojiri Position 2nd (QF1 5th, QF2 1st, QF3 2nd) 1st among HONDA users

I was feeling good from the beginning and even better after changing to soft tires, so I got first place in QF2. In QF3, I was in second by 0.05sec. I could have done more in my driving. However, 2nd place is still favorable position to victory. I will work out tomorrow's strategy with my team and will give 100% of my ability.

#6: Nobuharu Matsushita Position 3rd (QF1 1st, QF2 3rd, QF3 3rd) 2nd among HONDA users

I am satisfied with QF, because my car was good and I pushed hard without a mistake . I think our issue is that we need a little bit more to close 0.1sec difference. Tomorrow, Nojiri and I will start from the good position. I hope both of us will end up on podium at worst, and at best, it will be 1-2 finish. In that case, I will be in front, off course.