



## Race Report

### 2018/8/19 Rd-5 Twin Ring MOTEGI

Weather : Cloudy/Clear      Temperature : 29°C      19 cars

Audience : 16,500/18<sup>th</sup>(Sat)、20,500/19<sup>th</sup>(Sun)、Total 37,000

It was a cloudy day with the crisp air at Twin Ring MOTEGI. It was comfortable unlike in the summer time here, however, the surface temperature was over 40°C when the 52-lap race started.

Matsushita made an excellent start from 3rd place. After passing his team mate Nojiri for 2nd position, he overtook Ishiura on 5th Corner and jumped up to the top. He kept the position until pit-stop on Lap27.

Nojiri also made a good start, however, he was overtaken by Matsushita and became 3rd. He battled it out for keeping the position against drivers who executed 2-stop strategy.

On Lap23, Nojiri made his pit-stop, and got his car refueled and changed to medium tires without a mistake. Since his pace just before pit-stop was not good due to the damaged tires from the fight for 3rd position, he went back on-track in the middle group.

Matsushita came to the pits on Lap27 to change to medium tiers. He pushed hard to raise his position for the podium, however, he had trouble overtaking competitors. He finished in 4th place. Nojiri quickened his pace towards the end of the race, but ended up in 8th. They both earned some points.

#5: Tomoki Nojiri Position 8th (3rd among HONDA users)

My performance was good during QF, however, in fact, I was worried about my car's behavior. The race set-up had negative effect on that, so I couldn't quicken my pace. Our time is limited before Okayama, but we will keep trying, risking failure, and will prepare for the remaining 2 races intending to win both.

#6: Nobuharu Matsushita Position 4th (1st among HONDA users)

I am glad I had the lead in the race as planned at start. However, I should have driven faster with soft tires, and also I am disappointed I failed to become 3rd position because I let my competitor pass me while being blocked by a car right after pit-stop. I did everything I could do, but still, I am frustrated that I missed out the podium.

There are issues to be improved, so I will analyze data, including Nojiri's, with my team and develop our potential.