



Race Report

2018/9/9 Rd-6 OKAYAMA International Circuit

Weather : Clear/Cloudy Temperature : 20°C 19 cars

Audience : 5,400/8th (Sat.)、8,000/9th (Sun) 13,400/total

Rd-6 at OKAYAMA International Circuit was held in heavy rain due to autumn rain front. Therefore, the race started one hour late with the safety car leading. However, the rainfall to the course did not decrease at all, and finally, after Lap6, the red flag was hoisted. One hour later, the race restarted at 16:10 and 19 cars followed the safety car for a while.

Both Nojiri and Matsushita pushed hard trying to overtake cars ahead as soon as the safety car came out on Lap12, however, cloud of spray intercepted their visual fields and prevented them from getting closer to them.

On Lap23, the safety car came in again because of the accident in Last Corner. When the race was restarted on Lap27, Matsushita who was in 9th position, one position to go for a point, took a risk and pushed hard. On Lap31, the safety car came in for the third time because of a car spun, and 70min race time was up as it was. Nojiri finished in 4th place and Matsushita ended up in 9th.

#5: Tomoki Nojiri Position 4th (1st among HONDA users)

The rainfall was so heavy that we could hardly stay on-track. Despite of a lot of happenings such as several red flag/safety car conditions, at least I could stay in 4th position and finished the race without losing my concentration. On the other hand, I realized how far behind the top three I was. I will improve my car with my team and will be stronger by the last round at SUZUKA.

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

I would have a chance at a usual start, but the rain was getting heavier and bringing the safety car was right decision. At the beginning, I couldn't see ahead because of spray of water and it was very hard to overtake. In the latter half, I struck my pace and drive and I could overtake several cars. My car condition was good, so I need to improve my driving technique to go fast under any conditions. Next Suzuka is our favorite circuit and I am sure I will show you good performance. I will prepare myself for that.