



DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING

Team Release

Qualifying Report

2018/10/27 Rd-7 SUZUKA Circuit

Weather: fine Temperature: 17°C 19cars

2018 season of Super Formula, the championship to determine the fastest man in Japan, has finally come to the last round as known as "JAF GRAND PRIX SUZUKA". Annually, JAF GRAND PRIX had used 2-race format, however, this year, it will be a 250km-race.

In knock-out QF1, two cars of DOKOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING went on-track with new tires and warmed up while checking set-ups and surface conditions before attack laps. However, a fire started from the engine part of Nojiri's car on Sec3. Nojiri's QF was over without attacking after all.

QF was interrupted for 15min for removing Nojiri's car and cleaning up the track. It was restarted with 6min remaining.

Matsushita was not satisfied with the car balance completely, but still passed QF1 in 5th position.

After adjusting set-up slightly, he jumped in on-track as soon as QF2 started, and showed outstanding speed in Sec1 and 2. In Sec3, he lost his balance and lost time too, and ended up in 10th place.

#5: Tomoyuki Nojiri DSQ (QF1: unable to run because of trouble)

From free practice on Friday, we were making steady progress for QF. So, I feel very frustrated that I couldn't drive because of the machine trouble. Off course, I can't stop thinking 'what if', but I should change my focus in a positive way for tomorrow. My team will prepare my car perfectly, and I will try to finish in a higher rank with persistent effort and strategy.

#6: Nobuharu Matsushita Position 10th (QF1 5th, QF2 10th) 4th among HONDA users

In QF1, even though I couldn't have a perfect attack lap because of oil left on the course, I had a good feeling. In QF2, my pace was good at the beginning, then, I made a mistake in Spoon Curve and lost a lot of time. There was a good chance to move on to QF3 for sure, and I am disappointed that my mistake cost me so much.

Tomorrow, how to manage tire wear will be the key as well as the team's strategy. I will focus on the front to make the race fun.