



DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING

Team Release

Race Report

2019/4/21 Rd-1 Suzuka Circuit

Weather: sunny Temperature: 22°C, 20cars

Audience: 23,000/20th (Sat.) 35,000/21st(Sun.) 58,000 total

Super Formula has entered a new era adopting new chassis 'SF19' and also with the updated engine and tires. As a large audience looked on, a battle to determine the fastest man began with twenty drivers including seven rookies in fine weather.

DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING placed Yamamoto in the third position and Fukuzumi in the fourth, hoping for their good start.

Yamamoto showed an excellent start and entered Corner 1 in second position. However, Yamamoto wearing medium tires was overtaken by a car with soft tires one after another, in spite of trying very hard to block it. He struggled with speed difference between two types of tire.

Fukuzumi stalled on a start and dropped his position down to 7th.

When SC came in because of the crush on Lap 9, the team called two cars into the pits at the same time, and changed to soft tires and refueled. While Yamamoto went back on track without any trouble, Fukuzumi's engine stalled, and again he dropped his position. Using the new overtake system and managing tire wear, Yamamoto kept the second position, and Fukuzumi raised his position up to 8th. However, Fukuzumi was imposed SC re-start penalty and he became 11th position.

Surviving the tempestuous race with Four-time SC condition, eight cars retired, and seven cars penalized, Yamamoto ended up on the podium in second place, and Fukuzumi finished Super Formula new era opener in 11th place with no point.

#1: Naoki Yamamoto Position 2nd (1st among HONDA users)

First of all, I thank my team for preparing such a brilliant car to perform wonderfully, and thank all the supporting companies. It was the first race after my transfer. It means a lot that I raised my position in QF and finished the rough race in this position. This is absolutely a good start, so, I will buckle down and charge headlong for champion.



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#5: Nirei Fukuzumi Position 11th (5th among HONDA users)

I couldn't start as I had imaged. I recovered from that delay to the point-paying position once, but in the latter half, I was penalized because of my own mistake. I realized how difficult and important it was to produce a good result even in such a rough race development. About the car and my team, I felt positive feeling all through the weekend, and I can keep this motivation to go into next Autopolice that has the different characteristic track.