



DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING

Team Release

Race Report

2019/6/23 Rd-3 Sports Land SUGO

Weather: cloudy/sunny Temperature: 24°C, 20cars

Audience: 7,800/22nd (Sat.) 18,800/23rd (Sun.) 26,600 total

Rd3 at Sportsland SUGO holds the key to the championship title competition in the first half of the season.

DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING topping both the drivers' standings and the teams' standings placed Yamamoto on the pole position and Fukuzumi on the sixth grid in the third row. Both drivers made an excellent start. In First Corner, Yamamoto kept his position and Fukuzumi raised one position up to the fifth. Right after the opening lap, drivers who had started with medium tires, including Fukuzumi, went to the pits and changed to soft tires. Fukuzumi only changed tires and went back on-track without refueling.

Yamamoto who gradually pulled ahead of the followers with laps of 1 minute 8 seconds caught backmarkers from Lap12, and while overtaking them, he managed abrasion of soft tires to increase time difference between him and the followers. He increased 0.5sec every lap from the second car and nearly 1 sec every lap from Nojiri who was aiming at the top with an early pit stop. Yamamoto made a pit stop on Lap 51. After changing tires and refueling, he went back on-track keeping the first position.

Despite of the safety car coming in on Lap 54 and Lap 60, Yamamoto reached the goal first steady. He won the race for the first time this season with 'pole to win', and stayed on the top of the drivers' standings. Fukuzumi held his position and finished the race in fifth place.

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

I am very glad with my first victory this season, especially it's a perfect victory of 'pole to win'! I thank my team for preparing the car which performed wonderfully and sponsor companies which always support us. My team and I simulated various strategies and we decided to go with the legitimate way, which was to get clear way from the pole position. DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING has high level cars which can compete in the top group and effective strategies.

I will brace myself for the championship title.



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#5: Nirei Fukuzumi Position 5th (3rd among HONDA users)

I took the different strategy from Yamamoto's for the race. During a pit stop, I only changed tires and didn't refuel. So, I had to drive considering fuel efficiency, and I consulted with my team about where to hold and where to push. I think I could manage it and overtook backmarkers smoothly.

I earned points in two consecutive races, however, I have more to work on in order to leave behind better results. I will buckle down to the issues and improve myself for the next race.