



# DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING

Team Release

## Race Report

**2019/7/14 Rd-4 FUJI Speedway**

Weather: rain Temperature: 20°C, 20cars

Audience: 10,200/13<sup>th</sup> (Sat.) 15,300/14<sup>th</sup> (Sun.) 25,500 total

It was drizzling in the early morning at Fuji Speedway. Just before the race started, the rain stopped. The surface was still wet condition. Would it change to dry condition gradually? Would it rain and wet the surface again? The team prepared for everything possible until the last minute.

As soon as all the cars were placed on the starting grid, it started to rain and the surface became fully wet. The rain was so heavy that the race began with the safety car in the lead.

On the opening lap, Yamamoto kept his 9th position as he started, and Fukuzumi who started from 12th gained one position up to 11th.

Yamamoto, who was fighting for 8th position in the middle group, regretfully spun on Lap 15. He dropped his position to 12th.

Around Lap 20, the midway point of the race, Fukuzumi started competing for 8th position intensely among 4-5 cars. While the field of view was intercepted by water splash raised from a car ahead, he tried to overtake everywhere on the track, however, it reached time limit (95 min) on Lap 53 although it was supposed to be a 55-lap race. On the last lap, Yamamoto raised one position and finished in 11th place, and Fukuzumi finished in 9th. Neither of them got a point.

#1: Naoki Yamamoto Position 11th (5th among HONDA users)

I couldn't quicken my pace in the rain. To make it worse, I had spun because of my own mistake and dropped my position. I ended up getting no points. My issue is how to draw out the car's performance under unstable surface conditions.

I am disappointed with no points considering the championship, but still, I top the drivers' standings, so I will change my focus in a positive way for Motegi.

I will use my time effectively to be fully prepared.



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#5: Nirei Fukuzumi Position 9th (3rd among HONDA users)

The rain was heavier than we expected, and it was difficult to see the view ahead because of the water splash during the race. Regardless the situation, even though I went off the track several times, I pushed with all my might for 8th place. I wasn't strong enough to get a point.

During the competition with rivals, I learned how to drive in the heavy rain, what is necessary in set-up and soon. I will analyze data including Yamamoto's with my team to solve the problems for next Motegi round.