



## DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING

Team Release

### Qualifying Report

#### 2019/8/17 Rd-5 Twin Ring MTEGI

Weather : Fine Temperature : 38°C 20cars

It is fine weather after a typhoon has passed with a temperature as high as body temperature. QF for Rd5 at Twin Ring Motegi is just about to start. Yamamoto, who was the second in the first two rounds and won Rd3 from the pole position, currently leads the drivers' standings and tries to leave his competitors way behind. Fukuzumi who had won F3 race once at this circuit aims at the pole position.

In knock-out QF1, the both drivers checked the course conditions and attack timing with medium tires first, and then went on-track with the second sets of medium tires in last 6 minutes.

Yamamoto could not get the right balance of his car and became 7th position. On the other hand, Fukuzumi renewed his best time in each sector. However, he was blocked by a slow car and ended up in 11th. They both made it to QF2.

In the following QF2, Yamamoto and Fukuzumi wore soft tires and adjusted set-ups slightly. They went on-track together with 6 minutes remaining. In spite of feeling improvement of car balance, Yamamoto finished QF2 in 5th place. Fukuzumi fully extracted the potential of the soft tires and took the first place. They both moved on to QF3.

QF3 was to determine the ranking of the top eight drivers. Yamamoto and Fukuzumi warmed up tires carefully to bring them in best condition for attacks, and showed remarkable performance in the second timing lap. However, Yamamoto who could not eliminate the imbalance from QF1 ended up in 8th position. Fukuzumi finished QF in 3rd place by 0.3 seconds.

#1: Naoki Yamamoto Position 8th (QF1 7th, QF2 5<sup>th</sup>, QF3 8<sup>th</sup>) 5th among Honda users

Right from the start, I could not get the balance on breaking, so I will start from 8th place by 0.6 seconds. I find something to improve everytime I drive, and this time, we have to work on something to close 0.6-sec margin.

Still, we are the only team whose two drivers made it through QF3. With Team's total ability, I aim to mount the podium along with Fukuzumi tomorrow.



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#5: Nirei Fukuzumi Position 3rd (QF1 11th, QF2 1<sup>st</sup>, QF3 3<sup>rd</sup>) 2nd among Honda users

I am satisfied with QF. My car was good and I could push with confidence. In QF1, I caught up with a slow car and I was scared not to clear QF1. However, in QF2, I recorded the fastest lap, and I attacked with all my might in QF3.

I warmed tires up on L1 and made an attack in the second timing lap, but in terms of result, I should have attacked in the first timing lap like the top two drivers to finish with a different result. It will be very hot again tomorrow, and I am not sure how the tire performance would change. We will plan good strategy and try to finish first.