



DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING Team Release

Qualifying Report 2020/8/30 Rd- 1 Twin Ring MOTEGI

Weather : Fine Temperature : 36℃ 19cars

As a preventive measure against COVID-19, 2020 Super Formula decided to hold Qualifying and Race the same day.

Two-group format was introduced in Knock-out QF1.

Yamamoto who was in Group A went on track on the green light. After checking tires and warming up his car, we came into the pits for new tires and waited for the right timing. Going back on track with 3 min remaining, he started to attack on the first lap unlike other drivers. Even though he was caught in the slow traffic in the last sector, he took the lead recording 1'31"895. In the end, one car exceeded that time and he moved on to QF2 in 2nd position.

Fukuzumi in Group B took the same strategy as Yamamoto. Doing a check-run on the green light, he went on track in the last 4 min, and attacked on the first lap. He made it to QF2 with the fastest lap of 1'31"440.

In following QF2, since the 14 cars attacked in a 7-minute session, the on-track timing was the key. As for QF1, two cars of DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING took a check-lap, and with less than 3 min left, they started to attack on the first lap while two other drivers were attacking on their second lap. However, it ended up backfiring. Yamamoto and Fukuzumi came up with the two drivers, and could not quicken their pace. Fukuzumi in 9th place and Yamamoto in 14th place did not make it to QF3.

#5: Naoki Yamamoto Position 14th (QF1 Grp A 2nd, QF2 14th) 4th among Honda users

I had a good feeling in QF1, and went into QF2 with confidence. I am very disappointed that I couldn't warm up my tires enough and finished in QF2 without using my full ability and my car's. It's easy to be wise after the event, but I should have coped flexibly with the strategy for a different result. This is a future task.

It will be pretty tough to start from the 14th grid in the race without a pit-stop tomorrow. I will do my best with the total team capabilities to earn as many points as possible.



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#6: Nirei Fukuzumi Position 9th (QF1 Grp B 1st, QF2 9th) 2nd among Honda users

My car was completed when I started driving, and I was confident to finish QF in the top group. I was struggling with the tires a little, however, by choosing to attack on the first lap, I finished in the first place. In QF2, I couldn't find a clear lap, so I couldn't show my substantial ability. It will be a sprint-race tomorrow. I will make a good start, and compete actively for 35 laps to finish in the top group.