



DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING

Team Release

Race Report

2020/8/30 Rd-1 Twin Ring MOTEGI

Weather: fine Temperature: 40°C, 18cars

Audience: 3,500/29th (Sat.) 4,800/30th (Sun.) 8,300 total

2020 Super Formula opener was held at Twin Ring Motegi, which is famous for the severe condition in midsummer, with the temperature at a scorching 40°C and the surface temperature at 46°C.

This season, as a preventive measure against COVID-19, the race format was changed to prevent stuff from being too crowded.

The race was shortened to 35 laps, no mandatory tire change during the race, no refueling allowed, and only one spec of soft tires can be used.

Fukuzumi from 9th grid and Yamamoto from 14th grid finessed their way through a jumble in starting, and Fukuzumi raised two positions to 7th while Yamamoto moved up six positions to 8th on the opening lap. From here, six cars including both drivers continued to fight for 4th place for 17 laps.

Fukuzumi who was watching for an opportunity overtook Kobayashi in Down Hill Strait and became the 6th position. On the next lap, Yamamoto who was in 8th place also came up with Kobayashi in the same place. However, they sideswiped with each other and Yamamoto broke the front wing of his car. He made an emergent pit stop, so he dropped his position down to 15th.

On Lap 22, Fukuzumi competed side by side with Sekiguchi. Edging out Sekiguchi, he became the 5th position. Without any car blocking in front, both Fukuzumi and Yamamoto pushed hard, shortening their own best times lap by lap. Fukuzumi finished the opener in 5th place, and Yamamoto ended up in 13th.

#5: Naoki Yamamoto Position 13th (6th among HONDA users)

I was doing well at the start and on the opening lap.

The pace of the race was fast, and I waited for a chance to raise my position in the group for the 4th place. However, I withdrew of it because of the sideswipe in Down Hill Strait .

I couldn't leave a good result, but there were still positive things and at the same time, some issues were clarified.

I will apply what I learned today to the next race.



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#6: Nirei Fukuzumi Position 5th (1st among HONDA users)

Starting from the 9th grid, I tried to make most of every chance.

First of all, I wanted to make a good start. I could raise my position at the start, and I didn't waste my chance to overtake two cars in the group competing for the 4th place. Then I kept a good pace and brought 5 points home by finishing in 5th. All through the weekend, both myself and my car were in good shape, so I am disappointed with the mistake I made in QF.

There are some points to be improved. We will analyze data for the next race at Okayama, and I will improve myself for it.