



## **Qualifying Report** **2020/10/18 Rd-3 Sports Land SUGO**

Weather : Fine Temperature : 16°C 19cars

Under the measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19, Super Formula 2020 schedule had changed. Rd 3 at Sportsland SUGO was held in October for the first time. Unlike yesterday's rain, it cleared up, however, the condition was different from other years, with the temperature of 16 degrees.

Knock-out QF1 adopted a two-group format.

Since the free practice yesterday was held in the rain, attacking with dry tires was off-the-cuff. Yamamoto in Grp A went on-track in the last 7 min, and started to attack on the fourth lap after being conscious of warming up his tires carefully. He checked the heat built-up of tires, and moved on to QF2.

Receiving the feedback from Yamamoto, Fukuzumi in Grp B went on-track planning to attack on the third lap. He was blocked by a car ahead in Sec 3 during the attack, so he tried again on the fourth lap. In spite of reducing his time steadily, QF was interrupted by a red flag because of a car gone off the course in Sec 4. It was restarted with 3min remaining, however, he could not drive fast with the used tires. Unfortunately, his qualifying ended here.

In the following QF2, 14 cars attacked in 7 min.

Yamamoto who went on-track 1 min after the session started began to attack on the third lap, controlling positional relationship in front and behind.

He shortened his time in each sector, so a good lap time was expected until he was blocked by a car ahead and had to release the accelerator pedal.

He finished QF in 10th position.

#5: Naoki Yamamoto Position 10th (QF1 Grp A 4<sup>th</sup>, QF2 10<sup>th</sup>) 4th among Honda users

Due to the bad weather, we couldn't do the simulation of QF during the free practice yesterday, but I had the best feeling about my car to lead QF.

Especially in QF2, I paid attention to warming tires and the locational relationship with the competitors in front and behind.

However, I caught up with a car and I couldn't make the best attack.

There are only five races left and I intend to win them all.

I will buckle down to this race.



## **DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING** *Team Release*

#6: Nirei Fukuzumi Position 15th (QF1 Grp B 8<sup>th</sup>) 6th among Honda users

My car was good in finish and I was confident of finishing QF in the top group. However, I couldn't make a time attack because of the red flag condition, and after QF was restarted, I tried to shorten my time with the used tires, but couldn't make it to QF2.

I will start from the tail part, however, a race at SUGO is always rough and anything could happen. I will fight well to bring some points home.