



## DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING Team Release

### Race Report

#### 2020/10/18 Rd-3 Sports Land SUGO

Weather: fine/Cloudy Temperature: 18°C, 19cars

Audience: 2,300/17<sup>th</sup> (Sat.) 4,200/18<sup>th</sup> (Sun.) 6,500 total

Only two hours after QF was over, Rd3 at Sports Land SUGO, 53-lap race, opened under the pallid sky in the afternoon, with the temperature not rising that much. As with Rd2 at Okayama, tire change was mandatory. All four tires had to be changed after Lap 10.

DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING got some points steadily in the previous two races, however, had not gotten large points yet.

At this moment, there are five races left and to compete for the championship title, DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING cannot afford to lose this round.

Yamamoto started from the 10th grid, and Fukuzumi did from the 15th grid. Aiming for points and also for the podium, they concentrated their energies on starting. Yamamoto made an excellent start and jumped up to 4th position.

On Lap 3, he overtook one car in the First Corner to become 3rd position and started to compete for the 2nd position.

Fukuzumi was caught in the confusion from the multiple crashes in the First Corner and fell down to 16th.

When he gradually recovered his position to 13th, on Lap 11, he made a pit stop to change tires and went back on-track.

On Lap 18, Yamamoto finally became 2nd. As soon as the safety car came in because of the crash on the next lap, the team called him back to the pits for tire change.

The race restarted on Lap 27. As if Yamamoto's tires were not warm enough, he dropped his position to 3rd in the First Corner right after restarting.

He fought for the second from there, however, he finished in 3rd place, on the podium.

Fukuzumi kept driving steadily, and raised his position up to the point paying 10th at the end.



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*Team Release*

#5: Naoki Yamamoto Position 3rd (1<sup>st</sup> among HONDA users)

I just focused on starting to win the race regardless of my QF position. I had a good feeling after the start and raised my position to 2nd. However, after the tire change, I had a difficult time because my car was off balance. The surface temperature might have dropped. I couldn't reach the top, but I think we took a step forward as a team by mounting the podium for the first time this season. There were issues that became clear from the race. So, to win the next race at Autopolice, I will be well-prepared with my team.

#6: Nirei Fukuzumi Position 10th (4<sup>th</sup> among HONDA users)

I dropped one position in the First Corner chaos right after the start. However, I raised my position steadily after that and I could finish in 10th with a point. I have been in bad shape in qualifyings, and I cannot show our ability yet. I will tackle the problems to improve myself with the help of my team, and go into the next race.