



# DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING

Team Release

## Race Report

### 2020/11/15 Rd-4 AUTOPOLIS

Weather: fine Temperature: 23°C, 20cars

Audience: 2,550/14<sup>th</sup> (Sat.) 4,410/15<sup>th</sup> (Sun.) 6,960 total

Thanks to the good weather at Autopolis, the 41-lap race opened in good condition with the atmospheric temperature of 23 degree and the surface temperature of 28 degree. Tire change of all four was mandatory after the 10th lap.

Fukuzumi in the front row and Yamamoto in the third grid were enhancing concentration in the start.

Fukuzumi kept the second position to the first corner, while Yamamoto could not make a good start and dropped his position to 5th.

On Lap7, the safety car came in because of an accident and the race was restarted on Lap9. After Lap10, several cars started to change tires, however, on Lap11, a car stopped in the track and the safety car came in again. So, DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING decided to call Fukuzumi into the pits for tire change.

However, equipment trouble occurred, and Fukuzumi fell far behind when he went back on-track.

Yamamoto took a stay-out strategy and pushed hard to increase time difference to Nojiri leading the drivers who had made mandatory pit-stop.

Yamamoto marked 1 minute 28 seconds' again and again.

He needed more than 28-second difference to Nojiri to be in front of him after tire change, however, he made a pit stop on Lap39 with 25.4-second difference.

The team changed his tires in 6.6 sec, unprecedentedly fast, and he went back on-track in second position, 3.7 sec behind Nojiri. He kept pushing until the very end, but regretfully, he finished in second by 0.6 sec.

Fukuzumi could not quicken his pace in the group. After close fights all round the track, he ended up in 9th place with points.



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#5: Naoki Yamamoto Position 2nd (2<sup>nd</sup> among HONDA users)

I dropped my position because of my own mistake at the start.

I could deal with the safety car situation well and our strategy worked.

It was good to compete for a victory, but something wasn't enough.

All through the weekend, I was slightly inferior to my rivals at key points.

Anyway, I am glad that I could stand on the podium two races in a row, considering the additional points to the season total.

I will determine good and bad points with my team and go into the next two races at Suzuka Circuit.

#6: Nirei Fukuzumi Position 9th (5<sup>th</sup> among HONDA users)

Even though I couldn't come out on top at the start, I had a very good feeling in the first half.

I dropped my position a lot because of the trouble during the tire change, and I couldn't raise it in the group at Autopolis where it is very hard to overtake.

My car was in good shape in both QF and the race and I was confident, so I am very frustrated.

My team and I will pursue quickness and strength together for next Suzuka.