



Qualifying Report **2022/7/16 Rd-6 FUJI SPEEDWAY**

Weather : Rain Temperature : 21°C 21cars

Hot sunny days had continued for one week after the end of the rainy season in the Kanto region, however, on QF day at Fuji Speedway, it was rainy as if the rainy season had come back again. It had been raining since the morning, and Free Practice in the morning was interrupted by the red flag because of the heavy rain.

Since the heavy rain was predicted again around 3 PM when QF would start, the 30min-timing format was adopted instead of the knock-out for QF.

The rainfall changed minute by minute, and so was the surface condition. The drivers of DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING, Makino and Otsu, stayed on-track and kept attacking every lap. After 7 min from the start, a crashed car caused the red flag interruption. While waiting for the restart of the session, Makino and Otsu adjusted the car balance. When the session was restarted at 15:26, the rain was so heavy that none of the top group drivers could not shorten his best time, even some cars went off-track. With 7 min remaining, the red flag interruption occurred again because of a car stopped on the track. It was restarted with 6 min and 37 sec remaining, however, the rain became heavier again and the session was interrupted for the third time with 1 min and 29 sec remaining. It ended there. Otsu finished QF in 5th and Makino did in 6th.

#5: Tadasuke Makino Position 6th (3rd among Honda users)

The surface condition was changing every moment and it was very hard to meet circumstances in QF. It will be dry tomorrow and completely different from today's condition. Also, the result from SUGO had given me confidence.

I hope to finish the race on the podium along with Otsu.

#6: Hiroki Otsu Position 5rd (2nd among Honda users)

The surface condition was best at the start of QF. The heavier rain was forecasted, so we put emphasis on it for the race. I had a good feeling and could shorten my time. I think it was an excellent performance under that circumstance, but it would have been much better if I had been able to deviate attack timing.

Tomorrow, Makino and I will start from the positions where we have a good chance of winning. I will focus on making a good start to aim at victory.