



Qualifying Report

2016/7/16 Rd-3 Fuji Speedway

Weather : cloudy/rain Temperature : 22°C 19cars

It is the first three-day weekend in the summer break. The state of air is unstable and it has been raining on and off under cloudy sky. The surface is wet, still the condition is changing so often that set-up of tire and attack timing will be the key. Knock-out QF1

Nojiri changed set-up for QF, because he had a difficult free practice without enough tire grip in the morning. However, it did not work, and he ended in 18th place.

Vandoorne, who drove at Fuji Speedway for the first time, was in good shape already in free practice. After checking the surface condition, he recorded the best time in each sector on attacking lap. He became the first and moved on to QF2. In following QF2, Vandoorne started to attack without changing set-up. In Sct3, even though he was blocked by a slow car, he finished in 3rd to QF3.

QF3 was to decide top 8. Vandoorne mounted new wet tires on his car and adjusted set-up a little. On his first attack lap, he was seen going off the track once, however, he calmly managed a space from a car ahead and dry line before the last two attacks. On attack lap, he left his competitor far behind in Sec3, and he won the pole position stately in his first race at Fuji Speedway.

#40: Tomoyuki Nojiri Position 18th (QF1 18th) 7th among Honda users

I had a good feeling during the official test on Friday, so I tried to push harder. I am afraid it backfired me. I couldn't shorten my lap because tire grip was not enough.

Tomorrow, it is the first time for us to run with YOKOHAMA slick tires and also with full tank set-up at Fuji Speedway. So, each team has uncertain factors.

I will start from the back of the grid, but I will prepare with my team crew for race to grab some points.



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#41: Stoffel Vandoorne Position 1st (QF1 1st QF2 3rd QF3 1st) 1st among HONDA users

I had never driven at Fuji Speedway before. However, the characteristic of the course is similar to that of a European circuit, and I've done everything I could before the race, such as analyzing simulator, race video, and team's data with engineers. My team provided me a marvelous car, so I could try many things even in condition that changed every minute, and in the end, I took the pole position.

It looks like dry surface tomorrow. Running with slick tires is also my first, but I will start from the best position and I am ready.