



Race Report

2019/9/29 Rd-6 OKAYAMA International Circuit

Weather: fine/cloudy Temperature: 30°C, 20cars

Audience: 6,700/28th (Sat.) 11,000/29th (Sun.) 17,700 total

This season, Super Formula has a different winner in each race, and one of the closest competitions in recent years is going on for both drivers' standings and teams' standings. 2019 season is now in its final stages.

Yamamoto who knocked out in Grp A in QF1 starts from the 16th grid, and Fukuzumi starts from the 5th grid, standing first among Honda users. They both would need good team strategy and luck besides their quickness to raise their positions.

Fukuzumi made an excellent start and jumped up to the 3rd place, and overtook one more car in Hairpin Curve. He finished the opening lap in the 2nd position. However, on L8, he got a flat tire because of damage from a sideswipe accident on a start. He went off the track and retired.

This brought a safety car in, and the team instructed Yamamoto to come into the pits. During the safety car was on the track, he wore medium tires just for one lap for irregular 2-stop strategy to clear mandatory tire change. He narrowed the gap to his competitors, and drove in a good pace to finish in the 7th at the end.

Yamamoto reclaimed the top spot in the drivers' standing by one point, and the team maintained the lead, along with TOMS, in the teams' standings.

#1: Naoki Yamamoto Position 7th (5th among HONDA users)

I really struggled choosing strategy and tries because I was to start from 16th position. I started at a risk, and I could raise my position from the beginning. When the safety car came in, my team took the irregular 2-stop strategy and it helped me a lot. Even though it went wrong in QF, I grabbed 2 points as a result, and it means a great deal for the last round. I will go into the last race at Suzuka to win the championship by all means.



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#5: Nirei Fukuzumi Retired

I made a very good start, but I scraped the left rear then. It caused slow puncture and I had to retire on L8. It is a disappointing result, however, I could compete for the top in a good pace and my performance was good all through the weekend. I felt more confident with a lot of positive facts. Next Suzuka Circuit is our favorite. I will stand on the podium at least, and wish to contribute to the team title, too.