



Qualifying Report

2020/9/27 Rd-2 OKAYAMA International Circuit

Weather : Fine Temperature : 26°C 19cars

Under the measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19, Super Formula 2020 season had finally opened at the end of August. Taking continuous thorough preventive measures, Rd 2 was held at Okayama International Circuit.

In Knock-out QF1 with two-group format, Yamamoto in Grp A went on-track in the last 5 min, monitoring competitors moves. He warmed up his tires carefully, then attacked on his third lap. In spite of a breaking mistake, he moved on to QF2 in the 6th position.

Fukuzumi took the same strategy as Yamamoto. He went on-track with 5 min remaining and started to attack on his third lap. He marked good time in Sec 1, however, spun halfway round in Sec 2 and lost much time. He became 8th place not to make it to QF2.

Since 14 cars attack in 7 min- session at Okayama International Circuit which has the longest distance course among the circuits for the 2020 season, the timing of on-track is extremely important. So, in the following QF2, Yamamoto went on-track with less than 6 min remaining, considering other drivers. He could not drive fast in Sec 1, and made it through QF3 in the fourth.

In QF3, after adjusting the set-up slightly, Yamamoto warmed up his tires carefully as usual. Just when he started to attack on his third lap, a car behind him span, and the yellow flag was hoisted. He was supposed to receive no affection because it occurred behind him, however, he slowed down because of the team's erroneous determination. He finished QF in 7th place.

#5: Naoki Yamamoto Position 7th (QF1 Grp A 6th , QF2 4th,QF3 7th) 3rd among Honda users
From the Official Test yesterday, my car's adjustment went well, and I was pretty sure that I could aim for 1st place until QF2 was over. However, in QF3, I couldn't keep up with the condition change, and also my team's operation did not function partially. After all, I couldn't attack satisfactorily. Still, my car is in good condition, and there will be mandatory tire change this time, so, I want to earn as many points as I can with the team's total ability.



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#6: Nirei Fukuzumi Position 16th (QF1 Grp B 8th) 7th among Honda users

It was very windy during QF and the surface condition was different from yesterday. My car was finished excellently and I was confident that I would finish in the top group. However, I lost time because of my own mistake, and so I couldn't make it through QF2. I will start from the rear part of the grid, but I will keep fighting for 51 laps and try my best to bring some points home.