Qualifying Report
2022/6/18   Rd-5 Sportsland SUGO

Weather : Fine   Temperature : 28℃   21cars

The Super Formula 2022 season, which contains 10 rounds total, reaches the midway point at Sportsland SUGO. DOCOMO TEAM DANDELION RACING eagerly desires the first victory here at its favorite circuit.

Since the track width and escape zones are narrow, there are many accidents in this race course. Attack timing in QF sometimes influences the results significantly. Also, QF position becomes extremely important because the narrow track does not allow drivers to overtake easily.

Knock-out QF1 started beneath a sunny sky with temperature 28 degree C and the surface temperature 44 degree C. Otus who had been in good shape since Free Practice attacked in Grp A.

After a check-run and warming up the tires well, he recorded the second fastest time.

Makino in Grp B went on-track with 4 min and 30 sec remaining. Renewing the fastest time in each sector, he finished first to QF2.

In following QF2, both drivers consulted their engineers and chose the set-ups for the changing surface condition before attacking.

Otsu who went on-track first became third, marking 1 min 4 seconds.

On the other hand, Makino could not shorten his time because his set-up went against him. He finished QF in 9th.

#5: Tadasuke Makino Position 9th (QF1 Grp B 1st, QF2 9th) 5th among Honda users

During Free Practice, I felt that something was wrong with the car balance, so I changed the set-up a lot for QF.

In QF1, the car balance had been improved and I finished first comfortably. However, the adjustment for QF2 backfired me. It was because I had pushed hard to aim for the pole position, so I have no regrets.

As it is said that there lives an evil spirit in SUGO, so many things happen here. I will survive the race toughly to finish among the top group.

#6: Hiroki Otsu Position 3rd (QF1 Grp A 2nd, QF2 3rd) 2nd among Honda users

I had been having a good feeling since Free Practice, and in QF, I could quicken my time adjusting to the condition.

It was the achievement of my team's preparation and drawing out of the car's performance, learning from the failures at Autopolis.

Tomorrow, I have a good chance to win the race, starting from a good position. It is so difficult to overtake in this course that I will aim for victory with my team's strategy and start dash.