

96

Coca-Cola



DANIEL SUÁREZ

Coca-Cola Toyota Team Report

Round 10 of 36 – Folds of Honor QuikTrip 500 – Atlanta

Car No.: 96 –Coca-Cola Toyota Camry

PR Contact: Laz Denes, True Speed Communication (704) 875-3388 ext. 806 or Laz.Denes@TrueSpeedCommunication.com)

Primary Team Members:

Driver: Daniel Suárez
Hometown: Monterrey, Mexico

Technical Director: Nick Ollila
Hometown: Warren, Michigan

Engine Builder: Toyota Racing Development
Headquarters: Costa Mesa, California

Spotter: Steve Barkdoll
Hometown: Garrison, Iowa

Crew Chief: Dave Winston
Hometown: Miami, Florida

Car Chief: Mark Hillman
Hometown: Lockport, New York

Engine Specialist: Kirk Butterfield
Hometown: Carrollton, Ohio

Over-The-Wall Crew Members:

Gas Man: Cory White
Hometown: Vinson, Iowa

Jackman: Joel Bouagnon
Hometown: St. Charles, Illinois

Windshield: Mark Hillman
Hometown: Lockport, New York

Front Tire Changer: Mike Mead
Hometown: Sherrills Ford, North Carolina

Rear Tire Changer: Brandon Traino
Hometown: Cherry Hill, New Jersey

Tire Carrier: Mason Harris
Hometown: Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia

Folds of Honor QuikTrip 500 Notes of Interest:

- After piloting the **No. 19 NASCAR Cup Series Toyota** for **Joe Gibbs Racing** in 2017 and 2018, then the **No. 41 Cup Series** entry for **Stewart-Haas Racing** in 2019, Suárez joined the single-car **No. 96 Toyota Camry** effort for **Gaunt Brothers Racing (GBR)** for the full 2020 season.
- **Suárez will be making his 117th career NASCAR Cup Series start** in Sunday's **Folds of Honor QuikTrip 500 at Atlanta Motor Speedway**. He has career totals of eight top-five finishes, 32 top-10s and 242 laps led, with an average start of 16.4 and an average finish of 17.6. He also has qualified on the pole twice.
- At last Sunday's Supermarket Heroes 500 at Bristol (Tenn.) Motor Speedway, Suárez started 37th and finished 18th for the team's best result of the season and best since Kligerman finished 15th at Talladega (Ala.) Superspeedway last October. Suárez arrives at Atlanta 31st in the Cup Series standings, 279 points out of first.
- In three previous Cup Series outings at Atlanta, Suárez has a best start of fourth in 2018, when he finished 15th in his Gibbs Toyota, and a best finish of 10th from the fifth starting position last year in his Stewart-Haas entry.
- In a pair of **NASCAR Xfinity Series** starts at Atlanta, Suárez scored a best start of third and a best finish of seventh in his most recent outing en route to the 2016 series championship for the Gibbs team.
- He also has a pair of **NASCAR Gander RV & Outdoors Truck Series** outings at Atlanta with a best start and finish of fourth, both in 2015 driving the **No. 51 Kyle Busch Motorsports Toyota**.

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- Suárez competed from 2009 through 2014 in the **NASCAR Peak Mexico Series**. In 76 starts, he earned 10 victories, 26 top-five finishes, 39 top-10s and qualified on the pole 13 times. He had an average start of 8.7, an average finish of 12.4, led 1,216 laps, and had best finishes of second and third in the season standings in 2013 and 2012, respectively.
- Crew chief **Dave Winston**, a native of Miami, Florida, and a veteran of 69 Cup Series races atop the pit box, called the shots at two previous races at Atlanta. He collaborated with driver **Alex Bowman** in the **No. 23 BK Racing Toyota** in the 2014 race, starting 30th and finishing 35th. His driver **Michael McDowell** started 32nd and finished 33rd in the 2016 race driving the **No. 95 Leavine Family Racing** entry.
- This weekend marks the second Atlanta Cup Series start for the No. 96 Gaunt Brothers Toyota. In the 2019 race, driver **Parker Kligerman** drove to 30th-place finish from the 34th starting position.
- On May 11, GBR announced the addition of longtime motorsports veteran **Nick Ollila** as technical director. The native of Warren, Michigan, will oversee the team's engineering department and returns to the United States after a three-year stint serving in the same capacity with **Kelly Racing** in the **Virgin Australian Supercars Championship**. Ollila and team owner **Marty Gaunt** first worked together in 1997 when the two were at **Kranefuss-Haas Racing**. Their NASCAR paths crossed again 10 years later when both worked at **Red Bull Racing** – Gaunt as general manager and Ollila as chief aerodynamicist. NASCAR is where Ollila has spent the bulk of his career, which includes being the drivetrain specialist at **Rod Osterlund Racing** in 1980 when **Dale Earnhardt** won the first of his seven Cup Series championships. Ollila's racing career began at **Team Penske** in 1972 as a mechanic. He prepared cars for each of the series in which the organization competed, a lineup that included **IndyCar**, NASCAR, **Can-Am**, **Formula 5000**, sports cars and **Formula One**. NASCAR became Ollila's focus in late 1976. He joined **DiGard Racing** as the team's drivetrain specialist, working with NASCAR Hall of Famer **Darrell Waltrip** until the end of the 1978 season, whereupon he went to work for Osterlund. IndyCar and Penske beckoned in 1982, and Ollila returned as the team's engine builder, enjoying four championships (1982, 1983, 1985 and 1988) and four **Indianapolis 500** victories (1984, 1985, 1987 and 1988). That Penske connection led Ollila back to NASCAR in 1990, when he became the lead engineer for Hall of Fame driver **Rusty Wallace**. It was the beginning of a 20-year stint in NASCAR.
- **Coca-Cola** and **CommScope** continue their respective partnerships with Suárez at Gaunt Brothers Racing. The iconic Coca-Cola brand has been with Suárez since 2015 when he won the Xfinity Series rookie-of-the-year title. [CommScope](#), a leader in communication network technology, has been with Suárez through its [ARRIS](#) and [Ruckus Networks](#) brands since 2014, when he first competed in the Xfinity Series.

Daniel Suárez's Atlanta NASCAR Cup Series Performance Profile:

Year	Date	Event	Start	Finish	Status/Laps	Laps Led	Earnings
2019	2/24	Folds of Honor QuikTrip 500	5	10	Running, 325/325	0	N/A
2018	2/25	Folds of Honor QuikTrip 500	4	15	Running, 324/325	0	N/A
2017	3/5	Folds of Honor QuikTrip 500	21	21	Running, 323/325	0	N/A

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