

96

GBR
GAUNT BROTHERS RACING



DANIEL SUÁREZ

Today. Tomorrow. Toyota Camry Team Report

Round 6 of 36 – Toyota 500k – Darlington

Car No.: 96 – Today. Tomorrow. 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

Crew Chief: Dave Winston

Hometown: Miami, Florida

Car Chief: Mark Hillman

Hometown: Lockport, New York

Engine Specialist: Kirk Butterfield

Hometown: Carrollton, Ohio

Spotter: Steve Barkdoll

Hometown: Garrison, Iowa

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

Toyota 500k 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 make his 113th career NASCAR Cup Series start** in Wednesday night's **Toyota 500k** on the 1.366-mile, egg-shaped oval at **Darlington (S.C.) Raceway**. He has career totals of eight top-five finishes, 32 top-10s and 241 laps led, with an average start of 15.8 and an average finish of 17.4. He also has qualified on the pole twice.
- In four previous Cup Series outings at Darlington, Suárez has a best start of fifth and a best finish of 11th, both scored in his September 2019 outing in his Stewart-Haas Racing entry.
- Suárez has a pair of third-place finishes in two career **NASCAR Xfinity Series** starts at Darlington. He qualified second and led 14 laps before crossing the finish line behind winner Denny Hamlin and runner-up Kyle Busch in September 2015. A year later, Suárez qualified fifth and finished behind winner Elliot Sadler and runner-up Hamlin en route to that year's series championship in his Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota.
- Crew chief **Dave Winston**, a native of Miami, Florida, and a veteran of 64 Cup Series races atop the pit box, called the shots at two previous races at Darlington prior to Sunday's The Real Heroes 400. He collaborated with driver **Alex Bowman** in the **No. 23 BK Racing Toyota** in the April 2014 race, starting 34th and finishing 29th. His driver **Michael McDowell** started 30th and finished 27th in the September 2016 race driving the **No. 95 Leavine Family Racing** entry.

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- GBR last week welcomed 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.
- Wednesday night marks the third Darlington Cup Series start for the No. 96 Gaunt Brothers Toyota. Prior to Sunday’s 25th-place finish from the 37th starting position by Suárez in The Real Heroes 400, driver **Jeffrey Earnhardt** drove to 34th-place finish from the 40th starting position there in September 2018.
- **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 Darlington NASCAR Cup Series Performance Profile:

Year	Date	Event	Start	Finish	Status/Laps	Laps Led	Earnings
2020	5/17	The Real Heroes 400	37	25	Running, 292/293	0	N/A
2019	9/1	Southern 500	5	11	Running, 367/367	0	N/A
2018	9/2	Southern 500	16	29	Running, 358/367	0	N/A
2017	9/3	Southern 500	19	38	Accident, 125/367	0	N/A

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