



DANIEL SUÁREZ

Toyota Certified Used Vehicles Camry Team Report

Round 12 of 36 – Dixie Vodka 400 – Homestead

Car No.: 96 – Toyota Certified Used Vehicles 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

Dixie Vodka 400 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 119th career NASCAR Cup Series start** in Sunday's **Dixie Vodka 400** at **Homestead-Miami Speedway**. He has career totals of eight top-five finishes, 32 top-10s and 242 laps led, with an average start of 16.7 and an average finish of 17.8. He also has qualified on the pole twice.
- At Wednesday night's **Blue-Emu Maximum Pain Relief 500** at **Martinsville (Va.) Speedway**, Suárez started 37th and finished 27th, surviving intense heat in the cockpit throughout the 500-lap race around the half-mile, paperclip-shaped oval. Suárez arrives at Homestead 32nd in the Cup Series standings with 107 points.
- In three previous Cup Series outings at Homestead, Suárez has a best start of 10th while driving his Gibbs Toyota in the finale of his 2017 rookie season. His best Homestead finish is 14th, driving his Stewart-Haas entry in last year's season finale. His average Homestead start is 15.0 and average finish is 26.0.
- In **NASCAR Xfinity Series** competition, Homestead is where Suárez clinched the series championship in the 2016 **finale**, becoming the first Mexican-born champion of a NASCAR national series. He qualified his Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota on the pole, led seven times for a race-high 133 of 200 laps, and won by a .968-of-a-second margin over **Ty Dillon**. In his inaugural Xfinity Series season in 2015, Suárez clinched the series **Rookie of the Year** title at the Homestead finale over **Bubba Wallace**. He qualified second to Gibbs teammate **Kyle Busch** and drove to a sixth-place finish.

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- Suárez has a pair of Homestead starts in the **NASCAR Gander RV & Outdoors Truck Series**, with a best start of sixth in the 2015 race and a best finish of sixth in the 2016 race, driving the **No. 51 Kyle Busch Motorsports Toyota** in both.
- 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 71 Cup Series races atop the pit box, called the shots at one previous race at Homestead. He collaborated with driver **Alex Bowman** in the **No. 23 BK Racing Toyota** in the 2014 race, starting 41st and finishing 33rd.
- This weekend marks the second Homestead Cup Series start for the No. 96 Gaunt Brothers Toyota. In its previous visit, **Drew Herring** drove to finishes of 29th-place finish from the 37th 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 Homestead NASCAR Cup Series Performance Profile:

Year	Date	Event	Start	Finish	Status/Laps	Laps Led	Earnings
2019	11/17	Ford EcoBoost 400	17	14	Running, 266/267	0	N/A
2018	11/18	Ford EcoBoost 400	18	30	Running, 262/267	0	N/A
2017	11/19	Ford EcoBoost 400	10	34	Brakes, 225/267	0	N/A

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