

# 96

# COMMSCOPE®



## DANIEL SUÁREZ

### CommScope Toyota Team Report Rounds 14-15 of 36 – Pocono Doubleheader – Pocono

**Car No.:** 96 – CommScope 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

#### **Pocono Doubleheader 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 121<sup>st</sup> and 122<sup>nd</sup> career NASCAR Cup Series starts** in Saturday's **Pocono Organics 325** and Sunday's **Pocono 350 at Pocono (Pa.) Raceway**. He has career totals of eight top-five finishes, 32 top-10s and 242 laps led, with an average start of 17.1 and an average finish of 18.0. He also has qualified on the pole twice.
- At Monday's rain-delayed **GEICO 500 at Talladega (Ala.) Superspeedway**, Suárez started 37<sup>th</sup> and finished 28<sup>th</sup> in the No. 96 CommScope Toyota Camry for Gaunt Brothers Racing (GBR). He arrives at Pocono 31<sup>st</sup> in the Cup Series standings with 122 points.
- In his best Pocono outing in six previous Cup Series visits to the 2.5-mile triangle, Suárez started on the pole and finished second in his Gibbs Toyota by a 1.7-second margin to his then-teammate Kyle Busch in the July 2018 race. Suárez led the first 21 laps and eight others during the 400-mile race for a total of 29. He has two other top-10 finishes of seventh in his Gibbs Toyota in the July 2017 race, and eighth in his Stewart-Haas entry in the June race last year. His average Pocono start is 9.5 and average finish is 13.3 with 30 laps led.
- Suárez has a pair of top-10 finishes in his only **NASCAR Xfinity Series** races at Pocono – ninth from the third starting position en route to the 2016 series championship, and fifth from the seventh starting position in 2017, both while driving a Gibbs Toyota.
- 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.

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- Crew chief **Dave Winston**, a native of Miami, Florida, and a veteran of 73 Cup Series races atop the pit box, called the shots at four previous races at Pocono. He collaborated with driver **Alex Bowman** in the **No. 23 BK Racing Toyota** in both 2014 races, both of which ended with 31<sup>st</sup>-place finishes. In the two 2016 races at Pocono, he collaborated with **Ty Dillon** on a 21<sup>st</sup>-place finish in the June race and with **Michael McDowell** drove to a 23<sup>rd</sup>-place finish in the July race.
- This weekend marks the 51<sup>st</sup> and 52<sup>nd</sup> outings for the No. 96 GBR Toyota since the team joined the Cup Series ranks in 2018, and its second at Pocono, where driver **Jeffrey Earnhardt** drove it to a 29<sup>th</sup>-place finish from the 19<sup>th</sup> starting position in the July 2018 race.
- 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 Pocono NASCAR Cup Series Performance Profile:

Year	Date	Event	Start	Finish	Status/Laps	Laps Led	Earnings
2019	7/28	Gander RV 400	7	24	Running, 163/163	0	N/A
	6/2	Pocono 400	9	8	Running, 160/160	9	N/A
2018	7/29	Gander Outdoors 400	1	2	Running, 164/164	29	N/A
	6/3	Pocono 400	18	24	Running, 160/160	0	N/A
2017	7/30	Overton's 400	8	7	Running, 160/160	0	N/A
	6/11	Axalta 400	14	15	Running, 160/160	1	N/A

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