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COMMSCOPE®



DANIEL SUÁREZ

CommScope Toyota Team Report

Round 13 of 36 – GEICO 500 – Talladega

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

GEICO 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 120th career NASCAR Cup Series start** in Sunday's **GEICO 500** at **Talladega (Ala.) Superspeedway**. 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 last Sunday's **Dixie Vodka 400** at **Homestead-Miami Speedway**, Suárez started 37th and finished 31st, but was proud of the work done by crew chief Dave Winston and the No. 96 GBR Toyota team to give him a good-handling racecar for most of the event. Suárez arrives at Talladega 32nd in the Cup Series standings with 113 points.
- In six previous Cup Series outings at Talladega, Suárez has a best start of seventh in the spring 2017 race and a best finish of 10th in the spring 2017 race, both while driving his Gibbs Toyota. Five of his six previous Talladega starts ended with top-20 finishes. His most recent outing last October ended with a multicar accident 20 laps from the checkered flag. His average Talladega start is 13.8 and average finish is 17.3, and he's led 12 laps there.
- Suárez has a pair of top-10 finishes in three **NASCAR Xfinity Series** races at Talladega – seventh in 2016 and ninth in 2017, both while driving a Gibbs Toyota. He qualified second for the 2016 race.

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- In his lone Talladega appearance in the **NASCAR Gander RV & Outdoors Truck Series**, Suárez started 17th and finished 15th in the No. 35 Toyota for owner **Kevin Cwynski**.
- 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 72 Cup Series races atop the pit box, called the shots at three previous races at Talladega. He collaborated with driver **Alex Bowman** in the **No. 23 BK Racing Toyota** in the spring and fall 2014 races, both of which ended with accidents. Most recently, his driver Michael McDowell drove to a 21st-place finish from the 31st starting position in the spring 2016 race.
- This weekend marks the fifth Talladega Cup Series start for the No. 96 Gaunt Brothers Toyota. The team competed in both spring and fall races each of the past two seasons with a best finish of 15th with driver **Parker Kligerman** in its most recent outing last October. **D.J. Kennington** drove the No. 96 Toyota to another top-20 finish in its first Talladega appearance in the spring 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 Talladega NASCAR Cup Series Performance Profile:

Year	Date	Event	Start	Finish	Status/Laps	Laps Led	Earnings
2019	10/14	1000Bulbs.com 500	19	32	Accident, 168/188	0	N/A
	4/28	Geico 500	16	12	Running, 188/188	0	N/A
2018	10/14	1000Bulbs.com 500	13	16	Running, 193/193	0	N/A
	4/29	Geico 500	14	10	Running, 188/188	1	N/A
2017	10/15	Alabama 500	14	15	Accident, 184/188	11	N/A
	5/7	◇Geico 500	7	19	Running, 191/191	0	N/A

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