

# 96

**GBR**  
GAUNT BROTHERS RACING



## DANIEL SUÁREZ

### Toyota Certified Used Vehicles Camry Team Report Round 17 of 36 – Quaker State 400 – Kentucky

**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

#### Kentucky 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 124<sup>th</sup> career NASCAR Cup Series start** in Sunday's **Quaker State 400** at **Kentucky Speedway** in Sparta. He has career totals of eight top-five finishes, 32 top-10s and 242 laps led, with an average start of 17.5 and an average finish of 18.2. He also has qualified on the pole twice, **most recently in this race last year** in his Stewart-Haas entry.
- At last Sunday's **Big Machine Hand Sanitizer 400** at **Indianapolis Motor Speedway**, Suárez started from his customary qualifying draw position of 37<sup>th</sup> and finished 20<sup>th</sup> for the team's second top-20 of the season. The first was his 18<sup>th</sup>-place finish May 31 at **Bristol (Tenn.) Motor Speedway**. He arrives at Kentucky 31<sup>st</sup> in the Cup Series standings with 159 points.
- Sunday's race marks Suárez's **fourth career Cup Series start** on the 1.5-mile oval at Kentucky. From his pole qualifying position in this race last year, he **led the opening 49 laps**, as well as three more in the closing laps for a **total of 52 laps led**, and he crossed the finish line eighth. In his two prior Kentucky appearances in his Gibbs Toyota, Suárez started ninth and finished 18<sup>th</sup> in 2017, and started 11<sup>th</sup> and finished 15<sup>th</sup> in 2018.
- In his four **NASCAR Xfinity Series** appearances on the Kentucky oval, Suárez has **three top-four finishes** and **three front-row qualifying performances**, including the **pole in the September 2015 race**, all in a Gibbs Toyota. He finished **second to Elliott Sadler** in the **September 2016 race**, third to winner and Gibbs teammate **Kyle Busch** and runner-up **Austin Dillon** in the July 2016 race, and fourth to winner **Brad Keselowski**, runner-up and Gibbs teammate **Erik Jones**, and third-place Busch in the July 2015 race.

-more-

- Suárez also has a pair of **NASCAR Gander RV & Outdoors Truck Series** appearances at Kentucky for **Kyle Busch Motorsports**. He started and finished fourth after leading 18 laps in 2015, and started on the pole and finished 11<sup>th</sup> after leading 59 laps in the 2016 race.
- 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 76 Cup Series races atop the pit box, called the shots at one previous race at Kentucky. He collaborated in 2014 with driver **Alex Bowman** in the **No. 23 BK Racing Toyota**, who started 33<sup>rd</sup> and finished 36<sup>th</sup>.
- This weekend marks the **54<sup>th</sup> outing for the No. 96 GBR Toyota** since the team joined the Cup Series ranks in 2018, and its **first at Kentucky**.
- 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 Kentucky NASCAR Cup Series Performance Profile:

Year	Date	Event	Start	Finish	Status/Laps	Laps Led	Earnings
2019	7/13	Quaker State 400	1	8	Running, 269/269	52	N/A
2018	7/14	Quaker State 400	11	15	Running, 267/267	0	N/A
2017	7/8	Quaker State 400	9	18	Running, 273/274	0	N/A

-TSC-

Contact Laz Denes with True Speed Communication

(704) 875-3388, ext. 806 or [Laz.Denes@TrueSpeedCommunication.com](mailto:Laz.Denes@TrueSpeedCommunication.com)

[www.TrueSpeedCommunication.com](http://www.TrueSpeedCommunication.com) • Online Media Kit Available at: [www.TrueSpeedMedia.com](http://www.TrueSpeedMedia.com)