

# 96

# COMMSCOPE®



## DANIEL SUÁREZ

### No. 96 CommScope Toyota Team Report Race 26 of 36 – Coke Zero Sugar 400 – Daytona

**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

#### Over-The-Wall Crew Members:

Gas Man: Cory White  
Hometown: Vinson, Iowa

Jackman: Bailey Walker  
Hometown: Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

Windshield: Mark Hillman  
Hometown: Lockport, New York

Crew Chief: Dave Winston  
Hometown: Miami, Florida

Car Chief: Mark Hillman  
Hometown: Lockport, New York

Engine Specialist: Kirk Butterfield  
Hometown: Carrollton, Ohio

Front Tire Changer: Jason Charles  
Hometown: Rochester, New York

Rear Tire Changer: Brandon Traino  
Hometown: Cherry Hill, New Jersey

Tire Carrier: Mason Harris  
Hometown: Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia

#### Daytona 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 has made 132 career NASCAR Cup Series starts.** He has career totals of eight top-five finishes, 32 top-10s and 242 laps led with an average start of 18.6 and an average finish of 18.7. He also has qualified on the pole twice.
- In his most recent Cup Series appearances, last weekend's doubleheader at **Dover (Del.) International Speedway**, Suárez finished 30<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> in Saturday's and Sunday's races, respectively. He now has driven 24 consecutive races in which the No. 96 Toyota was running at the finish, making the CommScope driver and points leader **Kevin Harvick** the only Cup Series drivers to do so this season.
- In six previous Cup Series outings at Daytona, Suárez has an average start of 21.0 and an average finish of 31.8, and he's led 11 laps. His best start was 15<sup>th</sup> in last year's July race and his best finish was 17<sup>th</sup> in the 2017 July race. In his four previous Duel qualifying races for the Daytona 500, Suárez posted a best finish of eighth in 2018.
- In the **NASCAR Xfinity Series**, where he won the series championship in 2016, Suárez has seven career starts at Daytona with a pole position in the 2015 July race, another front-row start in the 2016 February race, best finishes of eighth in the 2016 and 2018 season openers, 12 laps led, an average start of 12.9 and an average finish of 25.0.
- In his two career **NASCAR Gander RV & Outdoors Truck Series** races at Daytona, Suárez has a best start of fifth in 2016 and a best finish of ninth in 2015.
- Suárez started sixth and finished second in his lone Daytona start in the **ARCA Series** in 2015.
- Suárez competed from 2009 through 2014 in the **NASCAR Peak Mexico Series**, including seven races on road courses with a victory at his hometown **Autodromo de Monterrey** with 18 laps led in the 2013 race. In 76 overall starts in the series, 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 85 Cup Series races atop the pit box, including four on the Daytona superspeedway oval, collaborated with driver **Michael McDowell** in the **No. 95 Leavine Family Racing** entry to finishes of 15<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> in the two Daytona races in 2016. Winston worked with **Alex Bowman** in the **No. 23 BK Racing Toyota** for 36 races in 2014, which included finishes of 23<sup>rd</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> in the two races at Daytona that year.
- The No. 96 Gaunt Brothers Toyota has **60 Cup Series starts** since joining the series as a part-time team in 2017 and has made five starts on the Daytona oval. **D.J. Kennington** drove it to a best finish of 13<sup>th</sup> in the July 2018 race at Daytona, and **Parker Kligerman** drove it to 15<sup>th</sup> in last year's Daytona 500.
- 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 Daytona Performance Profile:

Year	Date	Event	Start	Finish	Status/Laps	Laps Led	Earnings
2019	7/7	Coke Zero Sugar 400	15	40	Accident, 83/127	0	N/A
	2/17	Daytona 500	23	33	Accident, 190/200	0	N/A
2018	7/7	Coke Zero Sugar 400	32	35	Accident, 54/168	0	N/A
	2/26	Daytona 500	17	37	Accident, 59/207	0	N/A
2017	7/1	Coke Zero 400	20	17	Running, 163/163	11	N/A
	2/26	Daytona 500	19	29	Accident, 141/200	0	N/A

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