

96

COMMSCOPE®



DANIEL SUÁREZ

No. 96 CommScope Toyota Team Report Races 24 & 25 of 36 – Dover Doubleheader – Dover

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

Dover 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 130 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 18.4 and an average finish of 18.5. He also has qualified on the pole twice.
- In his last Cup Series appearance, Sunday's inaugural **Go Bowling 235** on the road course at **Daytona (Fla.) International Speedway**, Suárez started 31st and finished 27th. It was the 22nd consecutive race 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.
- **Suárez will be making his seventh and eighth career Cup Series starts** on the concrete mile oval at **Dover (Del.) International Speedway** during the twin 311-mile races Saturday and Sunday. With an **average Dover start of 10.5 and average finish of 8.7**, Dover is Suárez's best track in the Cup Series. All six of his previous Dover Cup Series appearance resulted in top-15 finishes with a best of third in the May 2018 race in his Gibbs Toyota. And all but one of his Dover Cup Series starts came from 15th or better on the grid with a best of third in the May 2017 race in his Gibbs Toyota. He's led 22 laps at Dover, all but one of which came in the May 2019 race in his Stewart-Haas entry.
- Suárez's record at Dover in the **NASCAR Xfinity Series** is even better, with an **average start of 5.2 and average finish of 8.2**, including one win, two top-fives and five top-10s in six starts. His victory came in dominating fashion in the October 2016 race, when he led a race-high 122 laps and beat **Ty Dillon** across the finish line by 5.625 seconds en route to that year's series championship. Suárez returned the following June to score a third-place finish behind **Kyle Larson** and **Ryan Blaney**, leading 19 laps along the way.
- In a pair of **NASCAR Gander RV & Outdoors** races at Dover, Suárez scored runner-up finishes in both – to **Tyler Reddick** in the 2015 race and to **Matt Crafton** in the 2016 race, both while driving the **No. 51 Kyle Busch Motorsports Toyota**.

- In **NASCAR K&N Pro Series East** competition at Dover, Suárez has a pair of appearances with a best finish of sixth in the September 2013 race driving the **No. 6 Max Siegel-owned Toyota**.
- 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 83 Cup Series races atop the pit box, has called the shots at three previous races at Dover with a best finish of 20th in the May 2016 race with driver **Michael McDowell** in the **No. 95 Leavine Family Racing** entry.
- The No. 96 Gaunt Brothers Toyota has **60 Cup Series starts** since joining the series in 2018 with one previous start at Dover. Its driver **Jeffrey Earnhardt** drove to a 31st-place finish at Dover in the October 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 Dover Performance Profile:

Year	Date	Event	Start	Finish	Status/Laps	Laps Led	Earnings
2019	10/6	Dover 400	15	14	Running, 398/400	1	N/A
	5/6	Gander RV 400	14	11	Running, 400/400	21	N/A
2018	10/7	Gander Outdoors 400	19	10	Running, 404/404	0	N/A
	5/6	AAA 400	7	3	Running, 400/400	0	N/A
2017	10/1	Apache Warrior 400	5	8	Running, 400/400	0	N/A
	6/4	AAA 400	3	6	Running, 406/406	0	N/A

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