

96

GBR
GAUNT BROTHERS RACING



DANIEL SUÁREZ

No. 96 Toyota Camry Team Report Race 21 & 22 of 36 – Michigan Doubleheader – Brooklyn

Car No.: 96 – 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: Joel Bouagnon
Hometown: St. Charles, Illinois

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: 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

Michigan 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 127 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 18.1 and an average finish of 18.3. He also has qualified on the pole twice.
- In his last Cup Series appearance, Sunday's **Foxwoods Resort Casino 301** at **New Hampshire Motor Speedway** in Loudon, Suárez started from his customary qualifying draw position of 37th and finished 26th. It was the 19th consecutive race in which the No. 96 Toyota was running at the finish, making Suárez 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** at **Michigan International Speedway** in Brooklyn during Saturday's **Firekeepers Casino 400** and Sunday's **Consumers Energy 400**. He drove his Stewart-Haas Racing entry to a **pair of top-five finishes** in last year's two appearances there – fourth in the June race and fifth in the August race. **His best Michigan start** is ninth in last year's June race.
- In his second career Michigan outing in the **NASCAR Xfinity Series**, **Suárez made history** in the 2016 race on the 2-mile oval, passing his Gibbs Racing Toyota teammate **Kyle Busch** on the next-to-last lap to score the **first NASCAR national series victory by a Mexican-born driver**. It was his first of three victories that season en route to the series championship. Suárez finished 20th in his Michigan Xfinity Series debut during his 2015 series Rookie of the Year campaign.
- 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 80 Cup Series races atop the pit box, has called the shots at three previous races at Michigan with a best finish of 26th in August 2014 with driver **Alex Bowman** in the **No. 23 BK Racing Toyota**.
- The No. 96 Gaunt Brothers Toyota has 57 Cup Series starts since joining the series in 2018. Sunday marks the team's second appearance at Michigan. Its driver **Jeffrey Earnhardt** retired with engine issues on lap 102 of the 200-lap race in August 2018.
- 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 Michigan Performance Profile:

Year	Date	Event	Start	Finish	Status/Laps	Laps Led	Earnings
2019	8/11	Consumers Energy 400	11	5	Running, 200/200	0	N/A
	6/10	FireKeepers Casino 400	9	4	Running, 203/203	1	N/A
2018	8/12	Consumers Energy 400	40	11	Running, 200/200	0	N/A
	6/10	FireKeepers Casino 400	22	30	Running, 132/133	0	N/A
2017	8/13	Pure Michigan 400	16	37	Accident, 138/202	3	N/A
	6/18	FireKeepers Casino 400	20	24	Running, 200/200	0	N/A

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