

96

GBR
GAUNT BROTHERS RACING



DANIEL SUÁREZ

No. 96 It's Good To Be Genuine Toyota Team Report Race 29 of 36 – Bass Pro Shops Night Race – Bristol

Car No.: 96 – It's Good To Be Genuine Toyota Parts & Service 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: Bailey Walker
Hometown: Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

Windshield: Mark Hillman
Hometown: Lockport, New York

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

Bristol 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. It was announced Tuesday that Suárez and GBR have mutually agreed to part ways at the end of the season.
- **Suárez has made 135 career NASCAR Cup Series starts.** He has career totals of eight top-five finishes, 32 top-10s and 261 laps led with an average start and average finish of 18.8. He also has qualified on the pole twice.
- In his most recent Cup Series appearance, Saturday night's **Federated Auto Parts 400** at **Richmond (Va.) Raceway**, Suárez started 28th and finished 29th.
- In seven previous Cup Series outings on the .533-mile, high-banked concrete oval at Bristol, Suárez has best finishes of eighth in his two 2019 starts there in his Stewart-Haas Racing entry, and a best starts of 12th in the August 2017 and April 2018 races in his Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota. He led five laps in the April 2018 race, in which he finished 11th. Suárez's average Bristol start is 17.7 and average finish is 13.0. In his most recent points-paying start there, the May 31 **Supermarket Heroes 500**, Suárez drove the No. 96 GBR Toyota to an 18th-place finish from the 37th starting position. It was the team's best finish of the season, which he then equaled with an 18th-place finish in the July 23 race at **Kansas Speedway** in Kansas City. In this year's **NASCAR All-Star Open** held July 15 at Bristol, Suárez started 18th and finished 12th in the No. 96 GBR Toyota.
- Suárez has a pair of runner-up finishes and three other top-six results in six career **NASCAR Xfinity Series** starts at Bristol. He finished second to **Joey Logano** in the April 2015 race and second to **Kyle Busch** in the August 2017 race. His best Xfinity Series start at Bristol is third in August 2016, the year he won the Xfinity Series championship. His average Bristol start in the series is 7.7 and his average finish is 8.0.
- In his most recent **NASCAR Gander RV & Outdoors Truck Series** race at Bristol in August 2016, Suárez started second and led 77 laps before an accident ended his day 16 laps from the finish. In his only other Truck Series start there in August 2015, he qualified 16th and finished 30th. Both Truck Series outings were with Joe Gibbs Racing.

- Suárez also has competed in three **NASCAR K&N Pro Series East** races at Bristol with a best start of 17th in his most recent outing in March 2014, and a best finish of 15th in his first race there in March 2012.
- 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 88 Cup Series races atop the pit box, called the shots at four races at Bristol prior to this season. He collaborated with driver **Alex Bowman** in the **No. 23 BK Racing Toyota** in the April and August 2014 races, both which ended up with 32nd-place finishes. His driver **Michael McDowell** finished 29th and 19th in the April and August 2016 races, respectively, for the **No. 95 Leavine Family Racing** entry.
- The No. 96 Gaunt Brothers Toyota has **65 Cup Series starts** since joining NASCAR's top ranks as a part-time team in 2017, and will be making its fourth points-paying start on the Bristol oval Saturday night. Prior to the 18th-place finish with Suárez in May, both previous starts were in 2018 with driver **D.J. Kennington** starting 35th and finishing 27th in the April race, and **Jesse Little** starting 33rd and finishing 35th in the August 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 Bristol Performance Profile:

Year	Date	Event	Start	Finish	Status/Laps	Laps Led	Earnings
2020	5/31	Supermarket Heroes 500	37	18	Running, 500/500	0	N/A
2019	8/17	Bass Pro Shops NRA Night Race	18	8	Running, 499/500	0	N/A
	4/7	Food City 500	20	8	Running, 500/500	0	N/A
2018	8/18	Bass Pro Shops 500	21	18	Running, 499/500	0	N/A
	4/16	Food City 500	12	11	Running, 500/500	5	N/A
2017	8/19	Bass Pro Shops NRA Night Race	12	15	Running, 500/500	0	N/A
	4/24	†Food City 500	23	18	Running, 498/500	0	N/A

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