

# 96

# COMMSCOPE®



## DANIEL SUÁREZ

### No. 96 CommScope Toyota Team Report Race 27 of 36 – Cook Out Southern 500 – Darlington

**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: 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

#### Darlington 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 133 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 of 18.6 and an average finish of 18.7. He also has qualified on the pole twice.
- In his most recent Cup Series appearance, last weekend's **Coke Zero Sugar 400 at Daytona (Fla.) International Speedway**, Suárez started 30<sup>th</sup> and led 19 laps before an accident in the closing laps relegated him to a 26<sup>th</sup>-place result. The first DNF of the season ended a streak of 24 consecutive races in which the No. 96 Toyota was running at the finish – the CommScope driver and regular-season points champion **Kevin Harvick** being the only Cup Series drivers to do so during that stretch.
- In five previous Cup Series outings at Darlington, Suárez has an average start of 20.4 and an average finish of 26.0 with a best start of fifth and a best finish of 11<sup>th</sup>, both scored in September 2019 in his Stewart-Haas Racing entry. Last May, in the Cup Series' return to racing after the 10-week hiatus due to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, Suárez posted finishes of 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday, May 17, and 27<sup>th</sup> Wednesday, May 20, on the 1.366-mile, egg-shaped Darlington oval.
- Suárez has a pair of third-place finishes in two career **NASCAR Xfinity Series** starts at Darlington. He qualified second and led 14 laps before crossing the finish line behind winner **Denny Hamlin** and runner-up **Kyle Busch** in September 2015. A year later, Suárez qualified fifth and finished behind winner **Elliot Sadler** and runner-up Hamlin en route to that year's series championship in his Joe Gibbs Racing 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 86 Cup Series races atop the pit box, called the shots at two races at Darlington prior to this season. He collaborated with driver **Alex Bowman** in the **No. 23 BK Racing Toyota** in the April 2014 race, starting 34<sup>th</sup> and finishing 29<sup>th</sup>. His driver **Michael McDowell** started 30<sup>th</sup> and finished 27<sup>th</sup> in the September 2016 race driving the **No. 95 Leavine Family Racing** entry.
- The No. 96 Gaunt Brothers Toyota has **61 Cup Series starts** since joining NASCAR's top ranks as a part-time team in 2017 and made one on the Darlington oval prior to the back-to-back events there in May. In the September 2018 race, driver **Jeffrey Earnhardt** drove to a 34<sup>th</sup>-place finish from the 40<sup>th</sup> starting position.
- 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 Darlington Performance Profile:

Year	Date	Event	Start	Finish	Status/Laps	Laps Led	Earnings
<b>2020</b>	5/20	Toyota 500k	25	27	Running, 207/208	1	N/A
	5/17	The Real Heroes 400	37	25	Running, 292/293	0	N/A
<b>2019</b>	9/1	Southern 500	5	11	Running, 367/367	0	N/A
<b>2018</b>	9/2	Southern 500	16	29	Running, 358/367	0	N/A
<b>2017</b>	9/3	Southern 500	19	38	Accident, 125/367	0	N/A

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Contact Laz Denes with True Speed Communication

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