

# 96

**GBR**  
GAUNT BROTHERS RACING



## DANIEL SUÁREZ

### No. 96 Team USA Toyota Camry Team Report Race 30 of 36 – South Point 400 – Las Vegas

**Car No.:** 96 – Team USA 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

#### Las Vegas 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 Sept. 15 that Suárez and GBR have mutually agreed to part ways at the end of the season.
- **Suárez has made 136 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 18.9. He also has qualified on the pole twice.
- In his most recent Cup Series appearance, Saturday night's **Bass Pro Shops Night Race at Bristol (Tenn.) Motor Speedway**, Suárez started 29<sup>th</sup> and finished 26<sup>th</sup>.
- In six previous Cup Series outings at Las Vegas, Suárez has an average start of 17.8 and an average finish of 20.2, and he's led 42 laps. His best start was second in last year's September race and his best finish was eighth in the September 2018. Last February, in his first Las Vegas race in the No. 96 GBR Toyota, Suárez qualified 35<sup>th</sup> and finished 30<sup>th</sup>. Last September at Las Vegas, Suárez qualified on the front row for the second time in 2019 in his Stewart-Haas Racing entry. He led 29 of the first 30 laps of the 267-lap race, finished the first stage in fourth, and maintained his position in the top-15 through the second stage. Then, on a lap-185 restart, he was caught up in a multicar pileup that damaged his racecar. After pitting for repairs, he was able to conserve fuel enough to salvage a 20<sup>th</sup>-place finish. Suárez also led 12 laps in last year's March race at Las Vegas.
- In the **NASCAR Xfinity Series**, where he won the series championship in 2016 in a Gibbs Toyota, Suárez has three career starts at Las Vegas with finishes of second and third in his most recent starts there in the March 2016 and 2017 races, respectively, both from the third starting position. His average starts in the three races was seventh, his average finish fifth.
- 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 89 Cup Series races atop the pit box, called the shots at two races on the 1.5-mile Las Vegas oval prior to this season. He collaborated with driver **Alex Bowman** in the **No. 23 BK Racing Toyota** in the March 2014 race, starting 36<sup>th</sup> and finishing 37<sup>th</sup>. His driver **Michael McDowell** started 30<sup>th</sup> and finished 29<sup>th</sup> in the March 2016 race driving the **No. 95 Leavine Family Racing** entry.
- The No. 96 Gaunt Brothers Toyota has **66 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 at Las Vegas Sunday. Prior to the 30<sup>th</sup>-place finish with Suárez in February, **Jeffrey Earnhardt** qualified 35<sup>th</sup> and finished 25<sup>th</sup> in the September 2018 race, and **Parker Kligerman** started 32<sup>nd</sup> and finished 31<sup>st</sup> in the March race last year.
- 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 Las Vegas Performance Profile:

Year	Date	Event	Start	Finish	Status/Laps	Laps Led	Earnings
<b>2020</b>	2/23	Pennzoil 400	35	30	Running, 263/267	0	N/A
<b>2019</b>	9/15	South Point 400	2	20	Running, 266/267	29	N/A
	3/3	Pennzoil 400	22	17	Running, 267/267	12	N/A
<b>2018</b>	9/16	South Point 400	19	8	Running, 272/272	0	N/A
	3/4	Las Vegas 400	18	26	Running, 263/267	0	N/A
<b>2017</b>	3/12	Kobalt 400	11	20	Running, 267/267	0	N/A

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