

# 96

**GBR**  
GAUNT BROTHERS RACING



## DANIEL SUÁREZ

### No. 96 T-TEN Toyota Team Report Race 28 of 36 – Federated Auto Parts 400 – Richmond

**Car No.:** 96 – T-TEN 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

#### Richmond 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 134 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 18.7 and an average finish of 18.8. He also has qualified on the pole twice.
- In his most recent Cup Series appearance, Sunday night's **Cook Out Southern 500** at **Darlington (S.C.) Raceway**, Suárez started 28<sup>th</sup> and finished 25<sup>th</sup>. It was the team's eighth top-25 of the season and second at Darlington.
- In six previous Cup Series outings at Richmond, Suárez has an average start of 23.0 and an average finish of 12.2 with a best start of 11<sup>th</sup> in the spring 2017 race and a best finish of seventh in the fall 2017 race, both during his Cup Series rookie season in the Gibbs Toyota.
- Suárez has a top-five and three top-10 finishes in six career **NASCAR Xfinity Series** starts at Richmond, with a best start of third in the spring 2017 race, and a best finish of fourth in the spring 2016 race en route to that year's series championship with his Gibbs Toyota.
- Suárez also made four Richmond appearances in the **NASCAR K&N Pro Series East**, with a best start of 14<sup>th</sup> in April 2012 and a best finish of 20<sup>th</sup> in April 2011.
- 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 87 Cup Series races atop the pit box, has called the shots at four previous races at Richmond. He collaborated with driver **Alex Bowman** in the **No. 23 BK Racing Toyota** in both 2014 races at the track, and with **Michael McDowell** in the **No. 95 Leavine Family Racing** entry in both 2016 races.
- The No. 96 Gaunt Brothers Toyota has **62 Cup Series starts** since joining NASCAR's top ranks as a part-time team in 2017, including one previous visit to the Richmond oval with driver **Jeffrey Earnhardt** in the fall 2018 race, when he started 32<sup>nd</sup> and finished 37<sup>th</sup>.
- 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 Richmond Performance Profile:

Year	Date	Event	Start	Finish	Status/Laps	Laps Led	Earnings
<b>2019</b>	9/21	Federated Auto Parts 400	14	9	Running, 400/400	0	N/A
	4/13	Toyota Owners 400	33	18	Running, 399/400	0	N/A
<b>2018</b>	9/22	Federated Auto Parts 400	38	17	Running, 399/400	0	N/A
	4/21	Toyota Owners 400	26	10	Running, 402/402	0	N/A
<b>2017</b>	9/9	◇Federated Auto Parts 400	16	7	Running, 404/404	0	N/A
	4/30	Toyota Owners 400	11	12	Running, 400/400	0	N/A

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Contact Laz Denes with True Speed Communication

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