

96

GBR
GAUNT BROTHERS RACING



DANIEL SUÁREZ

No. 96 Team USA Toyota Camry Team Report Race 31 of 36 – YellaWood 500 – Talladega

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

Talladega 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 137 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 18.9 and average finish of 19.0. He also has qualified on the pole twice.
- In his most recent Cup Series appearance, Sunday's **South Point 400** at **Las Vegas Motor Speedway**, Suárez started and finished 29th.
- In seven previous Cup Series outings at Talladega, Suárez has a best start of seventh in the spring 2017 race and a best finish of 10th in the spring 2018 race, both while driving his Gibbs Toyota. In this year's June race at Talladega, Suárez and his GBR Toyota finished 28th from 37th on the starting grid. Prior to this season, five of his six Talladega starts ended with top-20 finishes. Suárez's average Talladega start is 17.1 and average finish is 18.9, and he's led 12 laps there.
- Suárez has a pair of top-10 finishes in three **NASCAR Xfinity Series** races at Talladega – seventh in 2016 and ninth in 2017, both while driving a Gibbs Toyota. He qualified second for the 2016 race.
- In his lone Talladega appearance in the **NASCAR Gander RV & Outdoors Truck Series**, Suárez started 17th and finished 15th in the No. 35 Toyota for owner **Kevin Cwynski**.
- 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 90 Cup Series races atop the pit box, called the shots at three races at Talladega prior to this season. He collaborated with driver **Alex Bowman** in the **No. 23 BK Racing Toyota** in the spring and fall 2014 races, both of which ended with accidents. And his driver **Michael McDowell** drove to a 21st-place finish from the 31st starting position in the spring 2016 race.
- The No. 96 Gaunt Brothers Toyota has **67 Cup Series starts** since joining NASCAR's top ranks as a part-time team in 2017, and will be making its sixth start at Talladega Sunday. Prior to the 28th-place finish with Suárez in June, the team competed in both spring and fall races each of the past two seasons with a best finish of 15th with driver **Parker Kligerman** last October. **D.J. Kennington** drove the No. 96 Toyota to another top-20 finish in its first Talladega appearance in the spring 2018 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 Talladega Performance Profile:

Year	Date	Event	Start	Finish	Status/Laps	Laps Led	Earnings
2020	6/22	×Geico 500	37	28	Running, 190/191	0	N/A
2019	10/14	1000Bulbs.com 500	19	32	Accident, 168/188	0	N/A
	4/28	Geico 500	16	12	Running, 188/188	0	N/A
2018	10/14	1000Bulbs.com 500	13	16	Running, 193/193	0	N/A
	4/29	Geico 500	14	10	Running, 188/188	1	N/A
2017	10/15	Alabama 500	14	15	Accident, 184/188	11	N/A
	5/7	×Geico 500	7	19	Running, 191/191	0	N/A

× Race length extended due teen-white-checkered finish

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