

# 96

# Coca-Cola



## DANIEL SUÁREZ

### No. 96 Coca-Cola Toyota Camry Team Report Race 32 of 36 – Bank of America Roval 400 – Charlotte

**Car No.:** 96 – Coca-Cola 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

#### Charlotte Roval 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 138 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 19.0 and average finish of 19.1. He also has qualified on the pole twice.
- In his most recent Cup Series appearance, Sunday's **YellaWood 500 at Talladega (Ala.) Superspeedway**, Suárez started 31<sup>st</sup> and finished 34<sup>th</sup> after getting caught up in a 13-car accident that ended his race just past its midpoint.
- In two previous Cup Series outings on the **Charlotte (N.C.) Motor Speedway** "roval" road course, Suárez has a best start of 13<sup>th</sup> last year in his Stewart-Haas Racing entry and a best finish of 21<sup>st</sup> in 2018 in his Gibbs Toyota. In this year's only previous road-course race, Suárez started 31<sup>st</sup> and finished 27<sup>th</sup> in August at **Daytona (Fla.) International Speedway**.
- Sunday's race marks the 10<sup>th</sup> career Cup Series road-course start for Suárez. He has a best road-course start of fifth and finish of third with 14 laps led, all achieved in his Gibbs Toyota in the 2017 race at **Watkins Glen (N.Y.) International**. He was beaten across the finish line by race-winner **Martin Truex Jr.**, and his then-Gibbs teammate **Matt Kenseth**, who finished second. Suárez added a fourth-place finish at The Glen in his Gibbs Toyota the following year, and also logged a fifth-place start in his Stewart-Haas entry in the June 2019 race at **Sonoma (Calif.) Raceway** before going on to finish 17<sup>th</sup>.
- In the **NASCAR Xfinity Series**, Suárez had six road-course starts during his 2015 Rookie of the Year and 2016 series championship seasons in his Gibbs Toyota. He had a best road-course start of fifth en route to a best finish of fourth in the 2016 race at **Road America** in Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin, and another fourth-place finish from sixth on the grid with six laps led in the 2016 race at Watkins Glen. At the **Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course** in Lexington, Ohio, Suárez had a best start of sixth in 2016 and best finish of 11<sup>th</sup> in 2015, also in his Gibbs Toyota.

- In **NASCAR K&N Pro Series** competition, Suárez has five career road-course appearances with a best finishes of second in the 2013 race at **Road Atlanta** and fourth in the 2018 race at Sonoma, both in Toyota equipment.
- 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 91 Cup Series races atop the pit box, will be calling his first on the Charlotte roval. Prior to the August road-course race at Daytona, Winston called the shots at four previous road-course races with a best finish of 17<sup>th</sup> at in the 2016 event at Watkins Glen with driver **Michael McDowell** in the **No. 95 Leavine Family Racing** entry.
- The No. 96 Gaunt Brothers Toyota has **68 Cup Series starts** since joining NASCAR's top ranks as a part-time team in 2017, including both previous races on the Charlotte roval, both resulting in 26<sup>th</sup>-place finishes. **Jeffrey Earnhardt** drove the No. 96 GBR Toyota in the 2018 race and **Parker Kligerman** drove it last year. Kligerman drove to the team's best previous road-course finishes of 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> in the 2018 races at Sonoma and Watkins Glen, respectively.
- 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 Charlotte Roval Performance Profile:

Year	Date	Event	Start	Finish	Status/Laps	Laps Led	Earnings
2019	9/29	Bank of America Roval 400	13	34	Running, 108/109	0	N/A
2018	9/30	Bank of America Roval 400	17	21	Running, 109/109	0	N/A

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