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DANIEL SUÁREZ

No. 96 GF Machining Solutions Toyota Team Report

Race 33 of 36 – Hollywood Casino 400 – Kansas

Car No.: 96 – GF Machining Solutions 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

Kansas 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.
- Sunday's **Hollywood Casino 400** on the 1.5-mile oval at **Kansas Speedway** in Kansas City will mark the 140th career Cup Series start for Suárez. In 139 career starts, he has eight top-five finishes, 32 top-10s and 261 laps led with an average start and finish of 19.1. He also has qualified on the pole twice.
- In his most recent Cup Series appearance, Sunday's **Bank of America Roval 400** at **Charlotte (N.C.) Motor Speedway**, Suárez started 34th and finished 25th for the team's ninth top-25 of the season.
- Suárez will be making his eighth Cup Series start at Kansas Sunday. In his most recent Kansas outing in July, he drove the No. 96 GBR Toyota to an 18th-place finish to equal the team's best of the season, first recorded in May at **Bristol (Tenn.) Motor Speedway** Prior to this season, Suárez's best Kansas finish of seventh came in his first visit to the track with the Gibbs Toyota team in the May 2017 race. His best Kansas start is fifth, in the October 2017 race with the Gibbs team. He **led six laps** in his Stewart-Haas entry last October and was running ninth coming to the white flag in the race's first attempt at an overtime finish when he was involved in a five-car accident.
- In two **NASCAR Xfinity Series** outings at Kansas, both in a Gibbs Toyota, Suárez started sixth and finished ninth during his 2015 Rookie of the Year season, then started fourth and finished third to **Kyle Busch** and **Elliott Sadler** after **leading six laps** during his 2016 series championship season.
- In his lone **NASCAR Gander RV & Outdoors Truck Series** appearance at Kansas, Suárez started 10th and finished sixth in a **Kyle Busch Motorsports** Toyota in 2015.
- Suárez **qualified on the pole** in the 2015 **ARCA Menards Series** race at Kansas, driving the **No. 55 Toyota** for **Venturini Motorsports**. He led the first 15 laps but ultimately saw his day end early after an accident on lap 67 of the 99-lap race.

- 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 92 Cup Series races atop the pit box, called the shots at three races at Kansas prior to this season. His driver **Alex Bowman** finished 35th and 32nd in the **No. 23 BK Racing Toyota** at the spring and fall 2014 races, respectively. And his driver **Michael McDowell** drove the **No. 95 Leavine Family Racing** entry to a 28th-place finish in the spring 2016 race.
- The No. 96 Gaunt Brothers Toyota has **69 Cup Series starts** since joining NASCAR's top ranks as a part-time team in 2017, including two at Kansas prior to this season.
- 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 Kansas Performance Profile:

Year	Date	Event	Start	Finish	Status/Laps	Laps Led	Earnings
2020	7/23	Super Start Batteries 400	37	18	Running, 267/267	0	N/A
2019	10/20	Hollywood Casino 400	8	32	Accident, 270/277	6	N/A
	5/11	Digital Ally 400	34	14	Running, 271/271	0	N/A
2018	10/21	Hollywood Casino 400	8	24	Running, 263/267	0	N/A
	5/12	KC Masterpiece 400	14	28	Running, 258/267	0	N/A
2017	10/22	Hollywood Casino 400	5	36	Accident, 197/267	0	N/A
	5/13	Go Bowling 400	15	7	Running, 267/267	0	N/A

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Contact Laz Denes with True Speed Communication

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