

96

peacock



DANIEL SUÁREZ

No. 96 Peacock Toyota Camry Team Report Race 35 of 36 – Xfinity 500 – Martinsville

Car No.: 96 – Peacock 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

Martinsville 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 **Xfinity 500** on the .526-mile oval at **Martinsville (Va.) Speedway** will mark the 142nd career Cup Series start for Suárez. In 141 career starts, he has eight top-five finishes, 32 top-10s and 261 laps led with an average start 19.3 and average finish of 19.2. He also has qualified on the pole twice.
- In his most recent Cup Series appearance, the rain-delayed **Autotrader EchoPark Automotive 500** that concluded Wednesday at **Texas Motor Speedway** in Fort Worth, Suárez started 30th and finished 27th.
- Suárez will be making his eighth Cup Series start at Martinsville Sunday. In his most recent outing on the Southern Virginia short track in June, he drove the No. 96 GBR Toyota to a 27th-place finish. In six previous Cup Series outings at Martinsville prior to this season, Suárez had a best start of eighth and a best finish of ninth, both while driving his Gibbs Toyota in the October 2018 race. He qualified ninth in both outings there last year, driving his Stewart-Haas entry to finishes of 10th and 31st, respectively, in the spring and fall 2019 races. His average Martinsville start is 17.1 and average finish is 20.3.
- Suárez has four career Martinsville starts in the **NASCAR Gander RV & Outdoors Truck Series**, all driving the **No. 51 Kyle Busch Motorsports Toyota**. In his most recent outing, in the fall 2016 race, he started second and finished sixth.
- 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 94 Cup Series races atop the pit box, called the shots at three races at Martinsville prior to this season. He collaborated with driver **Alex Bowman** in the **No. 23 BK Racing Toyota** in both 2014 events, starting 19th and finishing 36th in the spring race, and starting 32nd and finishing 29th in the fall race. His driver **Michael McDowell** started 27th and finished 24th in the spring 2016 race driving the **No. 95 Leavine Family Racing** entry.
- The No. 96 Gaunt Brothers Toyota has **71 Cup Series starts** since joining NASCAR's top ranks as a part-time team in 2017. In its two Martinsville appearances prior to this year's June race, **D.J. Kennington** drove to finishes of 28th and 27th in the spring and fall 2018 races, 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 Martinsville Performance Profile:

Year	Date	Event	Start	Finish	Status/Laps	Laps Led	Earnings
2020	6/10	Blu Emu Maximum Relief 500	37	27	Running, 494/500	0	N/A
2019	10/27	First Data 500	9	31	Running, 488/500	0	N/A
	3/24	STP 500	9	10	Running, 500/500	0	N/A
2018	10/28	First Data 500	8	9	Running, 500/500	0	N/A
	3/26	STP 500	23	18	Running, 497/500	0	N/A
2017	10/29	First Data 500	15	15	Running, 505/505	0	N/A
	4/2	STP 500	19	32	Running, 489/500	0	N/A

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