

96

THE NASCAR
FOUNDATION



DANIEL SUÁREZ

No. 96 The NASCAR Foundation Toyota Team Report Race 34 of 36 – Autotrader EchoPark Automotive 500 – Texas

Car No.: 96 – The NASCAR Foundation 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

Texas 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 **Autotrader EchoPark Automotive 500** on the 1.5-mile oval at **Texas Motor Speedway** in Fort Worth will mark the 141st career Cup Series start for Suárez. In 140 career starts, he has eight top-five finishes, 32 top-10s and 261 laps led with an average start and finish of 19.2. He also has qualified on the pole twice.
- In his most recent Cup Series appearance, Sunday's **Hollywood Casino 400** at **Kansas Speedway** in Kansas City, Suárez started and finished 27th.
- Suárez will be making his eighth Cup Series start at Texas Sunday. In his most recent Texas outing in July, he drove the No. 96 GBR Toyota to a 23rd-place finish. Suárez scored two of his eight career top-five finishes in last year's two visits to the 1.5-mile oval, **both resulting in third-place finishes** in his Stewart-Haas entry. In last year's spring race, he qualified third, led nine laps and crossed the finish line behind **Denny Hamlin** and **Clint Bowyer**. In the fall race, he qualified seventh, led 25 laps and took the checkered flag behind **Kevin Harvick** and **Aric Almirola**. Suárez's best Texas finish in four outings in his Gibbs Toyota was 14th from the sixth starting spot in the fall 2017 race.
- In five **NASCAR Xfinity Series** outings at Texas, all in a Gibbs Toyota, Suárez has four top-five starting positions and best finishes of sixth during his 2015 Rookie of the Year season and fifth during his 2016 series championship season.
- Suárez has top-five finishes in all three of his previous **NASCAR Gander RV & Outdoors Truck Series** races at Texas, all driving for Kyle Busch Motorsports, including runner-up finishes in both 2015 events.
- 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 93 Cup Series races atop the pit box, called the shots at two races at Texas prior to this season, both in 2014 with driver **Alex Bowman** and the **No. 23 BK Racing Toyota**.
- The No. 96 Gaunt Brothers Toyota has **70 Cup Series starts** since joining NASCAR's top ranks as a part-time team in 2017, and three at Texas prior to this season with a best finish of 22nd in last year's fall race with driver **Parker Kligerman**.
- 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 Texas Performance Profile:

Year	Date	Event	Start	Finish	Status/Laps	Laps Led	Earnings
2020	7/19	O'Reilly Auto Parts 500	37	23	Running, 329/334	0	N/A
2019	11/3	AAA Texas 500	7	3	Running, 334/334	37	N/A
	3/31	O'Reilly Auto Parts 500	4	3	Running, 334/334	9	N/A
2018	11/4	AAA Texas 500	19	28	Running, 332/337	0	N/A
	4/8	O'Reilly Auto Parts 500	14	29	Accident, 290/334	0	N/A
2017	11/5	AAA Texas 500	6	14	Running, 334/334	0	N/A
	4/9	O'Reilly Auto Parts 500	20	19	Running, 334/334	0	N/A

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