

96

peacock



DANIEL SUÁREZ

No. 96 Peacock Toyota Camry Team Report Race 36 of 36 – Season Finale 500k – Phoenix

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

Phoenix 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 **Season Finale 500k** on the mile oval at **Phoenix Raceway** will mark the 143rd career Cup Series start for Suárez. In 142 career starts, he has eight top-five finishes, 32 top-10s and 261 laps led with an average start and finish of 19.3. He also has qualified on the pole twice.
- In his most recent Cup Series appearance, Sunday's **Xfinity 500** at **Martinsville (Va.) Speedway**, Suárez started and finished 29th. And finished 27th.
- Suárez will be making his eighth Cup Series start at Phoenix Sunday. In his most recent outing on the mile oval in March, he drove the No. 96 GBR Toyota to a 21st-place finish for the team's first of nine top-25 finishes this season. In his six Cup Series outings there prior to this season, Suárez had a pair of top-10s and another top-15 finish, and one top-10 qualifying effort. He finished seventh and eighth in the March 2017 and 2018 races, respectively, in the No. 19 Gibbs Toyota, and posted his best Phoenix qualifying effort of 10th in the November 2017 race. In last year's fall race at Phoenix, Suárez started and finished 15th in his Stewart-Haas entry.
- In his five **NASCAR Xfinity Series** starts at Phoenix, Suárez reeled off three consecutive top-five finishes – fourth in November 2015, third in March 2016 and fifth in November 2016 – the latter two en route to winning the series championship in his Gibbs Toyota.
- Suárez scored his lone career **NASCAR Gander RV & Outdoors Truck Series** victory in the November 2016 race at Phoenix driving the **No. 51 Kyle Busch Motorsports Toyota**. He qualified second, led 34 laps, and beat runner-up **Johnny Sauter** by .510 of a second.
- Suárez also scored a Phoenix victory on the final lap of the February 2014 **NASCAR Peak Mexico Series** race there, crossing the finish line in his No. 3 Toyota .098 of a second ahead of runner-up Rodrigo Peralta. Suárez led 45 laps in all that race from his front-row starting position. He competed in the series based in his home country from 2009 through 2014. In 76 starts, 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 95 Cup Series races atop the pit box, called the shots at three races at Phoenix prior to this season. He collaborated with driver **Alex Bowman** in the **No. 23 BK Racing Toyota** in the March 2014 race, starting 35th and retiring in 41st with brake issues, then returning for the November race with Bowman and scoring a 32nd-place finish from the 37th starting position. His driver **Michael McDowell** started 33rd and finished 26th in the April 2016 race driving the **No. 95 Leavine Family Racing** entry.
- The No. 96 Gaunt Brothers Toyota has **72 Cup Series starts** since joining NASCAR's top ranks as a part-time team in 2017, and two at Phoenix prior to this season. In the March 2018 race, driver **D.J. Kennington** drove to 31st-place finish from the 34th starting position.
- 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 Phoenix Performance Profile:

Year	Date	Event	Start	Finish	Status/Laps	Laps Led	Earnings
2020	3/8	◇FanShield 500k	31	21	Running, 316/316	0	N/A
2019	11/10	Bluegreen Vacations 500k	15	15	Running, 312/312	0	N/A
	3/10	Ticket Guardian 500k	28	23	Running, 311/312	0	N/A
2018	11/11	Can-Am 500k	26	36	Accident, 96/312	0	N/A
	3/11	Ticket Guardian 500k	15	8	Running, 312/312	0	N/A
2017	11/12	Can-Am 500k	10	18	Running, 312/312	0	N/A
	3/19	◇Good Sam 500k	27	7	Running, 314/314	0	N/A

◇ Race length was extended due to overtime finish

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