## Suarez balances home race in Mexico City with contract uncertainty

**BY JENNA FRYER** AP AUTO RACING WRITER

MEXICO CITY - Daniel Suarez has become the unofficial tour guide for all things Mexico City as NASCAR prepares to race internationally this Sunday for the first international points-paying that I've been in this Cup Series event of the modern era.

From where to eat, what to do, how to navigate the city and even basic conversation in Spanish, Suarez has been the go-to guy in the garage since NASCAR said it would take the Cup Series outside the United States for just the third time in 77 years.

The Monterrey native has made multiple trips to NASCAR as the face of Sunday's race at Autodromo Hermanos Rodriguez, where he's raced on a different course layout 13 times, with three wins in NASCAR's Mexico

He'd like to win at the Cup level — if he pulls it out in his home country Sunday it will be his first victory of this season but Suarez is juggling a very difficult balancing act. He's elated to be racing in front of a home crowd, honored to show of the culture and magic of Mexico City, but at the same time tremendously concerned about his NASCAR future.

Suarez is in a contract year with Trackhouse Racing, which has Ross Chastain and Shane van Ginsberg under contract while Connor Zilisch is its development driver and on loan to several

levels of NASCAR racing.

Trackhouse only has three Cup Series seats, math Suarez can't ignore as he heads into Sunday ranked 28th in the stand-

"It's not the first time position. Definitely the first time with the Mexico race, but it's not the first time that I've been in the position that we have to win or in the position that we have a contract negotiation in the middle of the season," Suarez said. "It's definitely a distraction. I won't sit here and tell you that it doesn't really matter. I'm trying to be as smart as possible and to put all this stuff on the side and just do my thing on the track.'

Return to Mexico

Suarez, the only Mexican-born driver to win a NASCAR national series race, has two Cup victories, three Xfinity Series wins and one Truck Series win. His 2016 championship in the second-tier Xfinity Series made him the only foreign-born driver to win a national series title.

Suarez has faced adversity before, but never like the pressure he's feel-

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front of the local crowd. This weekend in Mexico is special to Suarez, who expects well over 100 of the spectators in attendance Sunday to be friends and family.

They've watched from afar as he's worked his way into the NASCAR spotlight, a journey full of ups and downs that have seen Suarez drive for four different Cup teams. He joined Trackhouse Racing in 2021 and last year signed a one-year extension through 2025.

At the time, he said he

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the program was before signing a long-term deal. But it's been a disappointing start to the season and his average finish of 21st is three spots worse than last year.

"The Mexico race is something that I've been hoping and waiting on for many, many years, and I'm not going to let anything else from outside take that week and that

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teams at lower national ing hoping to deliver in wanted to reassess where moment from myself," Suarez said. "We have to foot in front of the other and continue to move

forward. I think that in Trackhouse, we have just continue to put one found some decent speed

SEE SUAREZ/PAGE B5

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AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CITY OF VINE GROVE, KENTUCKY CLASSIFICATION AND COMPENSATION (PAY) PLAN, "SALARY SCALE- GRADE AND STEP" #2025-3
The Vine Grove City Council amended the compensation plan by

adding a 3% cost of living raise to each grade and step within the plan. To view the full budget ordinance please visit www.vinegrove.org, or email jessica@vinegrove.org. The foregoing Summary of Ordinance of the City of Vine Grove, Kentucky is a true and accurate summary of the contents of said Ordinance, and was prepared by Michael A. Pike, an attorney licensed to practice law in the Commonwealth of Kentucky with the law firm of Pike Law, P.S.C., 1000 Johnstown Road, Suite 100, Elizabethtown, Kentucky.



**ORDINANCE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026** #2025-2
The Vine Grove City Council is enacting the annual budget ordin-

ance for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 for the general operation of the city government. The budget ordinance estimated revenues total \$7,307,970.00 and estimated appropriations are \$7,207,970.00 This leaves a total surplus fund balance of \$100,000.00. To view the full budget ordinance please visit www.vinegrove.org, or email jessica@vinegrove.org. The foregoing Summary of Ordinance of the City of Vine Grove

Kentucky is a true and accurate summary of the contents of said Ordinance, and was prepared by Michael A. Pike, an attorney licensed to practice law in the Commonwealth of Kentucky with he law firm of Pike Law, P.S.C., 1000 Johnstown Road, Suite 100. Elizabethtown, Kentucky.

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