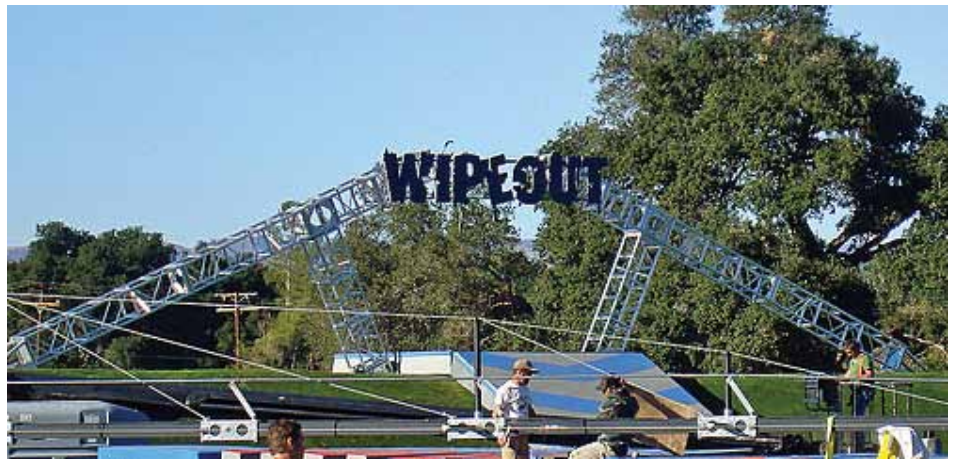


WIPEOUT!

By Jon Harpole



Wipeout!

The American Broadcasting Company (ABC) contacted Nationwide Shotcrete, asking for the fastest and most efficient way to produce several pools and foundations for a new game show called “Wipeout.” It was determined that shotcrete would be the fastest and most efficient process. For three pools totaling 40,000 ft² (3716 m²), the producer of the show wanted us to excavate, install the needed reinforcement, and then use shotcrete to complete the project.

After negotiating the contract with ABC, work began immediately on excavation and preparation for the shotcrete process. ABC’s demanding schedule for the production of “Wipeout” left no room for error.

Excavation began with slope dozers and loaders. Due to the location of the site, water was not accessible. Instead, water trucks were there to maintain the dust control and keep the soil damp and compacted for the application of shotcrete



Excavation of the first pool



Pool shotcreted with vertical walls using no forms



Preparing to apply shotcrete



Pool shotcreted and ready for production

and to minimize shrinkage and the number of joints. Once excavation was completed, the show's obstacles were reinforced with foundation anchors. These anchors had to be very secure and correctly placed to prevent movement during the shotcrete process. No formwork was used on this site and control wires were used in each pool.

Nationwide Shotcrete decided to complete the 40,000 ft² (3716 m²) by 425 yd³ (325 m³) project in 1 day. Shotcreting operations started at 5:00 a.m. with four shotcrete pumps and four shotcrete crews. Two crews worked in the largest pond (21,000 ft² [1951 m²]), the third crew worked in a second, 9000 ft² (836 m²) pool, and the fourth crew worked on the 11,000 ft² (1022 m²) pool. At 1:00 p.m., we had over 9180 ft³ (260 m³) completed. Shotcreting operations finished at 3:30 p.m.



Jon Harpole started in the shotcrete industry 27 years ago. Beginning his career as a job foreman, he has since completed shotcrete projects all over the U.S. In 2006, Harpole opened Nationwide Shotcrete—a family owned and operated corporation—with the dream of someday working alongside his three sons. That dream began to take life when his son Jordan broke into the industry following the legacy of his father. Commanding the attention of job owners and contractors alike, the Harpoles made a name for themselves on numerous jobs. They continue to gain experience and knowledge through each new project, and aspire to one day own and operate California's largest shotcrete company.