

There Is No 'I' In Team

By Jason Myers



I'm writing this article while watching another great playoff match in the World Cup. Two teams of different nations are playing for national pride, national honor, and of course a little prize money. Most of the team members play the season for a club team somewhere in the world. Most of their income and welfare come from that club team, and a lot of their

endorsements and fame come from it, too. However, each of these players sets aside their club team allegiance every four years for one thing: Their country.

TOGETHER

The shotcrete industry is similar to this. On the surface, we all focus our time and effort toward whichever company gives us employment — but when we look deeper, we realize that we owe most of what we have to our own 'National Team', the American Shotcrete Association (ASA).

Think back on the people who've taught you what you know about the shotcrete industry. Look back at the documents that you or the engineers use, that govern and allow you to do what you do. If you follow the trail of that information, it will at some point connect to a member or team from the ASA.

It's so easy to get caught up in your company issues and put aside the value and importance of the National Team. Meanwhile, the ASA is working on education, safety, guidelines, training, and the paths to certification that allow our industry to function. It's not about one company, contractor, or person making the industry successful; the industry is successful because of all the members working together to advance safe and quality shotcrete placement.

ASA MISSION STATEMENT:

**TO EXPAND AND ADVANCE GLOBAL
UTILIZATION OF THE SHOTCRETE PROCESS
FOR CONCRETE PLACEMENT**

**We do this by providing shotcrete leadership,
knowledge, resources, qualification,
certification, and education for the
concrete industry.**

EVERYONE

It takes a full roster to be successful. It's not only about the players that you see on the field, but the coaching staff, substitute players, training staff, management, and development teams and staff that all work together to make the team successful.

A person always has the option to try to do all of this on their own, but how much more successful are we by working together? The more members there are working on a project, the more perspectives we gain and can accomplish. No matter where or how you are involved, there are always objectives that will match your skills and passions. There's always a place for you to play on the team and that place is important!

ACHIEVES

What are we trying to achieve? The focus of one company or contractor is to 'win' the current project. The goal of the ASA is to improve the overall shotcrete industry.

The education, knowledge, and credibility the ASA has developed for the shotcrete industry in nearly thirty years is amazing. But just as a soccer team doesn't win a game just because they're wearing a great jersey, current ASA members can't get ahead by just wearing a pin: They need to figure out what they are going to do to help ASA move forward.

Are you helping to improve documents, write articles, develop and refine programs? Are you sharing your professional experience to help educate the engineers and construction managers of today and tomorrow? Working together as a team has maximum impact and makes overall success greater and, in many ways, easier.

MORE

Our shotcrete forefathers have accomplished a lot in the nearly thirty years of ASA. They put forth a lot of time and effort for the acceptance and improvement of the shotcrete industry that we benefit from today. The big questions are these: What are we going to accomplish in the next thirty years, and who is going to do it?

Just as your level of involvement does not limit your contributions or impact, it is also true that no company is an island, succeeding or failing, independently from others. We saw that in the 1970s, when everyone who could pick up a nozzle professed their ability to shotcrete. The result was poorly applied shotcrete, which then took decades

to rectify the stigma associated with shotcrete placement. ASA was largely born out of that need to help develop standards and education to show that shotcrete, when properly applied, is a structural, sustainable, functional, and impressive placement method for concrete! The industry can best advance when all involved are putting in their best efforts. This includes knowing the rules, training your team, investing in the right equipment, and growing through experience, both your own and others! How your team (company) fares affect the reputation of shotcrete placement in the concrete industry.

As the ASA continues, it is essential to maintain active, involved members to continue that momentum. Just as it takes players and training staff for the game to occur, it takes active members being involved and proactive for the industry to improve. If there are no players, then there is

nothing to watch and you're sitting in an empty stadium or staring at a blank screen. True membership is active membership, and by working together, we can continue to build on the legacy that's been handed down to us.

There is no 'I' in Team. Only by working together can we achieve greater things on the local, national, and international levels. So often we get caught up in the problems that are right in front of us or get focused on the bottom line of the present shotcrete project. These things are very important, but they exist because of the hard work of previous active ASA members. We so easily forget that the reason we have our success and don't have to fight all of the issues ourselves is because of the ASA.

ASA is not about the individual — it's about the shotcrete industry that we all benefit from as a TEAM: "Together Everyone Achieves More".
