

PAVECON STRONG



Finish Strong...What We Start©

There is an iconic story from the Olympics that will make most people look away from watching. In 1984, the Summer Olympics was held in Los Angeles, California. On that August 5th date, the first ever marathon was to be run by women. At temperatures just slightly warmer than expected, the conditions would set up a historic finish. But not for any of the medalist finishers.

Gabriela Andersen-Schiess, representing Switzerland, would eventually finish 37th out of forty-four runners. But her finish would trump the winners of the event. By the time she entered the final lap of the race, she was dehydrated to the degree that delirium and totally uncoordinated muscle movement had taken over. Literally, she looked as if she was on a rocking boat amid the "perfect storm."

She would finish, but at quite a cost. Doctors awaited her final movement across the finish line, and from there, she would spend days in the hospital recovery. When she recovered, she remembered only that she had set her vision and heart on finishing the race...no matter what. It was reported by several sources that as she entered the Olympic coliseum, with more than eighty thousand fans, the cheering grew with each step she took toward the finish line. At the moment of her final step, the roar from the crowd easily surpassed the cheers that had been given to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place finishers. No fan of Olympic running will remember those winners, but the world of running knows Miss Andersen-Schiess all too well.

I share this story first because it demonstrates the power of a vision and a heart totally focused on winning. You have only to type in Gabriela's full name on You-Tube, and you can watch the event for yourself. If you have a daughter, or a son, who is struggling with putting in the extra effort, who's thinking of quitting, or who is an athlete, watch them as they watch this incredible You-Tube video.

But I also share this story because, what was true for an Olympic runner, is also true for every Pavecon leader...from the front-line Foreman right down to the President of Pavecon, Daniel Kilman. Setting your vision, whether as a leader, or as a Pavecon Team-mate, is critical for your success, and the success of Pavecon. Second, having the heart means to have a passion that is never quite satisfied. We can enjoy our wins, but our heart drives us to be better.

An extension of that heart commitment empowers us to put in the "practice," that is, to work on complying with every smart process and technique that will give us the best possible chance to improve our performance. This requires a discipline to practice good pre-start planning, confirming all our people are well and prepared for the days' work, ensure that our equipment and tools are ready to be put to good use, and to have no doubt as to what we are doing, why we are doing it, where we are doing it at, and how we can best accomplish our vision.

You don't have to be a runner to appreciate the lessons from Gabriela Andersen-Schiess. She didn't win a medal, didn't even come close. But what she did do, which was on view for the entire world then, and today, is what is behind a person who has a vision, has the heart of a champion, and then the gut-wrenching steps to finish strong, what she had started.

Here's to Finishing Strong...Pavecon Strong!



Brad Humphrey
VP of HR & Employee Development

[See The Video](#)

