One More Time©

“Every strike brings me closer to the next home run.” Babe Ruth

Babe Ruth is known to the real baseball fan. For many years, he was sort of the “gold standard” for complete baseball players, and champions at that. While Ruth held the all-time home run record until Hank Aaron broke his record in the 1970’s, who was then passed by Barry Bonds, Ruth also held the all-time strike outs, by a hitter, until Reggie Jackson passed him up for that negative honor in the 80’s.

But it was Ruth’s attitude, you can sense through his quote, that left me so impressed. “Every strike”! A baseball strike is negative. You get three of those, at an “at bat,” and you’re “out of there.” But Ruth saw it differently.

Ruth realized that in order to hit a home run (Which has been defined as the one most difficult thing to do in any sport), you had to swing the bat. And in swinging the bat, you also risk getting a strike against you. BUT Ruth’s attitude was so tuned in to hitting a home run that he set aside any fear to swing, knowing, that even when he missed, he was just one closer swing to hitting what he was famous for, a home run.

That mentality is what I call, “One More Time.” And it has just as much meaning for us leading a Pavecon Project, as it did for Babe Ruth, or today, for players such as Mike Trout, Alex Bregman, Aaron Judge, or Rougned Odor. Winners never quit…they always get back to do something “One More Time.” Let me share a few Pavecon examples for PCs and Foremen.

* Even when you have reviewed a Job Stamp…look through it just One More Time. Look to catch something you missed before.
* Before you leave the yard, take One More Look, at your vehicles, equipment, trailers, looking for that one loose tie-down, that rake handle that’s broken, or noticing the trailer license plate that’s missing or about ready to break off.
* Upon arrival to your site, grab your Job Stamp, and compare your work on paper, with what you see before you. Take a “walk about” the site, One More Time, to be sure that everything adds up…or call your PM.
* Every few hours, take a few more pictures, One More Time, and send to your PC and PM, especially on those projects you know are high profile or challenging.
* Before leaving your job site, get your crew to walk the site, One More Time, to ensure the site is clean and that all tools and equipment are safely secured.

Leaders, you guys are so awesome, you really are. We are working under some of the most challenging of times. Our PMs are scratching out every viable option to land more work, which is not easy my friends in this current COVID19 moment. But this too will pass. So, in the meanwhile:

1. Don’t assume anything… “Trust but verify” …everything.
2. Plan twice, once in your head, and once on paper, before starting a project…let’s quit “feeding the weeds.”
3. Safe, Safe, Safe; do everything you can to keep your crew’s safe in hand washing, regular disinfecting of your trucks, equipment, and tools, and keeping as much of the six (6) feet of separation as you can.
4. Don’t give up, but instead, just practice *One More Time* for everything you do.

Here’s to being the best Pavecon Field Leaders possible by practicing the same RIGHT things RIGHT…FIRST…daily, and doing all of this…

One More Time!

Brad Humphrey

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