

CASE STUDY

Anchor Teams Up with World's Largest Soccer Ball

Since June of 1999, thousands of soccer fans have visited the National Soccer Hall of Fame in Oneonta, New York (located just an hour outside of Albany). In addition to housing

exhibits on the history of the sport in the United States, a variety of interactive soccer activities and world-class soccer fields, the Hall of Fame is home to a gargantuan soccer ball. The sculptured foam-on-metal ball measures nearly 18 feet (5.5 meters) across and, with foam-covered metal shards surrounding it, appears to be exploding



Visitors seeking a photo opportunity in front of the world's largest soccer ball can sit on or stand in front of the Anchor Diamond® retaining wall that runs beneath the sculpture.

through an exterior wall of the Hall of Fame building. The ball makes quite an impact — literally giving visitors "a big kick" as they enter the facility.

Sculpture attracts hordes of fans

As soon as the Hall of Fame opened, the soccer ball began to attract throngs of visitors who wanted their photos taken in front of the sculpture. As a result, the grassy area leading up to the sculpture quickly became trampled. The Hall of Fame maintenance department responded by constructing something more amenable to foot traffic.

Retaining walls help enclose picture-perfect photo spot

Now visitors to the Hall of Fame can walk right up to the soccer sculpture on a terrace surrounded by three Anchor Diamond® retaining walls. The 3 1/2 foot (1 meter) high back wall runs beneath the soccer ball for a length of 22 feet (6.7 meters). On either side, the walls taper over 32 feet (9.7 meters) to meet the sidewalk made of concrete pavers.

Anchor licensee Oneonta Block, located just two miles from the Hall of Fame, provided the materials for the project. Natural gray Anchor



A terrace of brick pavers, enclosed by tapered Anchor Diamond® retaining walls, permits visitors to approach the wall without disrupting the surrounding landscape.

Diamond® units were topped with Victorian red caps to match the new terrace of red Unilock pavers. "The Anchor units were chosen because the installer had previous experience with them and knew they would perform well in this application," says Earl Howell, sales representative for Oneonta Block. He adds, "The gray and red complement the surroundings

quite nicely. "The walls help provide a practical solution to enhance a one-of-a-kind sculpture." Says Jeff Ziemski, building manager for the Hall of Fame. "We wanted something that would provide a hazard-free means of permitting close contact with the sculpture. The installed retaining walls address the sloping landscape and safely enclose the sculpture viewing area."

Long-term goal is to extend Walk of Fame

The terrace of brick pavers represents the first phase of the Walk of Fame, a commemorative program designed to raise money for the Hall. The program sells tax-deductible brick pavers for \$150 per paver for the purpose of honoring a soccer fan, player, business or individual. The program goal is to replace all 6,000 pavers currently in place with inscribed donor pavers, and extend the Walk of Fame throughout the campus. Phase two of the project includes an extension of the Walk of Fame to an adjacent area, as a 200-foot (61 meters) walkway past eighteen flagpoles sporting the logos of various soccer teams. 📸

More information about the National Soccer Hall of Fame, Where America's Soccer Legends Live, is available online at www.soccerhall.org.