

Vermont Vultures Basketball Club



Annual Report

2024/25

ABOUT US

Vermont Vultures has a long history of promoting junior basketball for boys and girls in the Vermont and surrounding areas of the eastern suburbs of Melbourne, Victoria, Australia.

We provide opportunities for training, improvement in skills, and competition in an enjoyable environment.

We promote and instill a culture of pride, dedication and respect within the basketball and wider community.



Partners



BY THE NUMBERS



166 TEAMS



1,238 PLAYERS



247 FEMALE PLAYERS



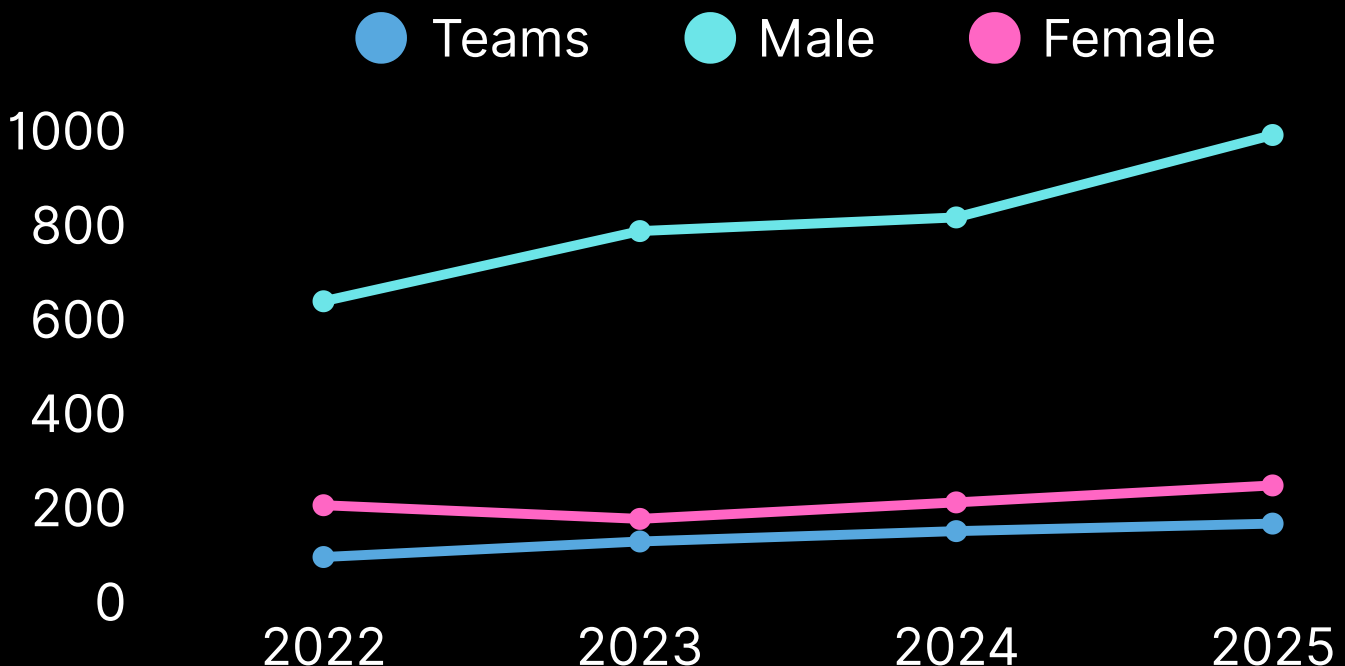
991 MALE PLAYERS



327 TEAM OFFICIALS
174 Coaches/ 153 Team Managers



143 REP PLAYERS
108 males and 35 females.



Committee

EXECUTIVE TEAM

Matt Cavell

President

Gavin Catto

Vice-President

Hayley Dewar

Secretary

Joe Reilly

Strategic Partnerships

Adrian Epifano

Coaches Coordinator

Victor Li

Treasurer

GENERAL COMMITTEE

Grant Exon

Child Safety

Jo Lyn Tan

Registrar

David Felici

Family Engagement

Shannon Cornish

Club Admin

Yaron Shamir

Venue Coordinator

Satish Devarakondra

Basketball Ops.

Derrick Qin

Website Coordinator

Felicity Baker

Uniforms Coordinator

Felicity Baker

Coaching Admin

Michael Willer

Comms. Coordinator

Dyson Baker

Social Media

Gavin Catto

MEBA Representative

Sarah Thompson

Awards Coordinator



Presidents Report

Hello Vultures Family,

It's that time of year again when we come together to reflect on the past 12 months and elect our 2026 committee. This is always a great opportunity to celebrate what we've achieved as a club and look forward to what's next.

First, I'd like to extend a warm welcome to the new faces who joined us in 2025. Jo and Michael have stepped onto the committee, and we've also had fantastic support from our new AGCs: Phil, Derrick, Kim, Jaq, Lucy, Fiona, Mark, Daniel, and Simone. Your energy and commitment have already made a huge difference, particularly during the Summer season setup. Congratulations and welcome aboard!

A big thank you also goes to our current committee, coaches, and team managers. The amount of time and effort you all dedicate to this club is extraordinary. From organising teams and managing logistics to coaching and mentoring our players, your contribution is the backbone of the Vermont Vultures. Without you, none of this would be possible.



2025 HIGHLIGHTS

When I sat down to reflect on the year, it initially felt like “business as usual.” But as we listed out everything we’ve accomplished, it became clear just how much we’ve achieved together—especially considering that all of this is done by volunteers who juggle jobs, families, and life’s challenges. Here are some of the key highlights:

Financial Management

With growth comes complexity. This year we:

- Registered for GST and adapted our accounting processes.
- Implemented a cloud-based accounting system.
- Updated our banking structure to meet compliance requirements.
- Introduced processes for loan uniforms and coach equipment deposits.

A special thanks to Victor, who has now completed 12 months as Treasurer and has handled these changes brilliantly.

Coaching Development

Our specialist training courses, initiated by Adrian and Joe last year, continued successfully across all four terms. We also introduced:

- Holiday Programs in partnership with South East Melbourne Phoenix.
- Rep Ready Programs in partnership with South East Melbourne Phoenix.
- Completed 4 full terms of our Vultures Excellence program with weekly sessions for kids
- Plans to record and share coaching sessions in November 2025—keep an eye on the website for updates!

Equipment

We’ve expanded our coaching packs and storage resources. Soon, we’ll launch a booking and access system for coaches to borrow off-court training props stored at Vermont Secondary. We are keen on hearing more about any coaching equipment needs, so please email coachingadmin@vermontvultures.org.au with any suggestions!



Uniforms

Felicity has streamlined uniform operations again in 2025, and we've:

- Added new products like bags and Jibbits.
- Begun designing new girls' uniforms, training tops, and warm-up/achievement tops.
- Secured space at Vermont Secondary to showcase Vultures merchandise—2026 will be exciting in this area!

Child Safety

We've strengthened our child safety standards and aligned with Nunawading Basketball's new mandatory training and forms for all committee members, coaches, and team managers. This is a vital step to ensure a safe environment for every child.

Committee Structure

Thanks to Gavin's leadership, we've evolved from a small committee to a broader structure with AGCs and assistants. With around 30 parents now involved, we're well-positioned to manage growth and compliance.

Communications

Our communications have stepped up significantly—social media updates, game-day photos, award announcements, newsletters, and website improvements. Huge thanks to Michael, Dys, and Derrick for driving this.

Looking Ahead

2025 marks my final year on the committee after 12 seasons in roles including Coaching Coordinator, Treasurer, Vice President, and President for the past four seasons. It's been an incredible journey, and I'm proud of what we've achieved together. I'll miss being part of the day-to-day, but I'm excited to see the next evolution of the Vermont Vultures.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to making this club what it is today.

Best of luck to the incoming committee, I know you'll continue to take the Vultures to new heights.



Matt Cavell

President

Vermont Vultures Basketball Club

Treasurers Report

It's been a fantastic and very busy year in the VVBC's finance back office! The club has continued to grow, both on and off the court, and it's been great to see so many players, families, and supporters involved.

With that growth has come more work behind the scenes — especially around governance and regulatory reporting requirement— but it's a great sign of progress. It shows how far we've come as a club and how committed we are to doing things properly as we continue to expand.

In 2025, team sheet fees and court hire remained our biggest areas of expenditure.

However, we're pleased to report that the club achieved healthy savings in court hire this year. Through better utilisation of available courts and improved scheduling, we reduced unnecessary bookings and minimised waste — a big kudo to Yaron and Matt!

Other key expenses included free U8/9 uniform for new players, coaching equipment and coaching supports. Despite these ongoing costs, the club has continued to manage its finances carefully, ensuring every dollar spent benefits the players and supports the program.

As a result, we finished the year with a surplus of \$35,798, which is a great result and puts us in a strong position to keep investing back into our players and programs.

A big thank-you to everyone — our committee, coaches, team managers, families, players, and sponsors, especially Melbourne Plumbing and our community partners — for your support throughout the year. None of this happens without the amazing group of people that make up our club.



Treasurer

Vermont Vultures Basketball Club



Coaching Update

To all our coaches,

Thank you for the invaluable time and energy you continue to bring to our great club. Your dedication extends far beyond game day. It's the hours spent planning, training, and mentoring that truly shape the experiences of our athletes.

Through your efforts, every athlete has the chance to build confidence, learn teamwork, and develop skills that serve them well on and off the court. The impact you make is profound, fostering resilience, sportsmanship, and a genuine love for basketball and competitive sport that often lasts a lifetime.

Following an incredible 2024 season, this year has been about building on that momentum. We've seen continued growth across all teams, with new faces stepping into coaching roles and returning coaches lifting the standard once again.

The success of our athletes, both in development and competition, is a direct reflection of your hard work, passion, and leadership. We couldn't do it without you, and we're proud to have you as part of the Vermont Vultures family.

This season, we've continued to invest in our coaches and training programs. Two Vermont Vultures Coaching led courses focused on enhancing training sessions through practical skills and drills have given coaches new tools to create more engaging and productive practices.

These sessions have helped strengthen our coaching community, ensuring every athlete benefits from structured, high-quality development.

In addition to normal regular weekly training, we've expanded our additional skills programs to helping athletes refine key techniques and improve game understanding. We've also continued to provide inclusive opportunities for more young athletes to enjoy basketball in a supportive environment.



Our youth coaching program continues to go from strength to strength. This year, we've seen a record number of young leaders (many between 14 and 18) step up to coach their own teams. Their enthusiasm, creativity, and professionalism have been outstanding.

These young coaches bring energy and fresh perspectives ensuring they are managing trainings and game days to a high standard. Their work not only benefits the athletes they lead but also develops their own leadership, communication, and teamwork skills.

These youth coaches represent the future of Vermont Vultures. They set the tone for what it means to give back, inspire others, and uphold the values of our club. We're immensely proud of them and excited to see how they continue to grow both on and off the court.

Looking ahead, our goal remains the same – to foster growth, sportsmanship, and fun at every level of our club. We welcome any feedback or ideas you have to keep improving our coaching program. You can reach out anytime at coachingcoordinator@vermontvultures.org.au.

Thank you for another fantastic year, and here's to an even stronger 2026.

Go Vultures!

Adrian Epifano

Coaching Coordinator

Vermont Vultures Basketball Club



Strategic Partnerships

As a club, we have had lots of exiting and beneficial elements happening in this space. We began the year securing a key longer term agreement with Vermont Secondary College, to have exclusive mid week access to the 2 new school stadium courts for our Vultures training. This has allowed 80 teams to train at the new and first class facilities. Making things easier for our Venue Management, but also providing the foundations of a great home base for our teams.

During the year, we also enhanced our partnership South East Melbourne Phoenix. Who have offered prizes and giveaways for our Vultures and Presentations Days, they have given our coaches behind the scenes access to Phoenix training sessions, and we have also offered exclusive Holiday and Rep Ready Training camps.

We started our community sponsorship program. Bringing on board Redwood Café and Intrepid Fitness. Both local businesses who have supported our club, and in return, have offered great benefits to our overall Vultures community, from coffees, milkshakes and fitness training programs. We thank them both for their support.

Finally, we introduced our game day award partnership with Yo Chi. Who have provided vouchers for each team and weekly awards at their franchises around Melbourne. Players have been awarded with weekly vouchers to try some of their amazing frozen yogurts! We even received exclusive access to their stores grand opening in Eastland. Thank you Yo Chi!

In 2026, we are looking to strengthen our community partnerships. We have an opportunity to look for a new main club sponsor, and work and promote small business in our area.

Joe Reilly

Strategic Partnerships

Vermont Vultures Basketball Club



Family Engagement

March 2025 saw the second incarnation of the team photo shoot, where each team was offered a team photo to be taken and then each team member including the coach and team manager were provided a copy.

We had 115 out of a total of 137 teams take up this opportunity from U8 through to

U18's, which was a fantastic turnout. This event was run over 3 days and was warmly welcomed by the Vermont Vultures community. An option was provided for individual photos to be taken with the team photo as well which was warmly received and will be offered again in 2026.

The End of summer season presentation day saw some changes as well, with the event held at our new home Vermont Secondary College gymnasium. The day was a great success run over 3.5 hours with shooting competitions, skill tests and a BBQ for fundraising.

We also had a change to the award presentation with each team having a space to present their team's awards and talk directly to each team member about how they went during the season. This was well received by the Vultures community as it allowed acknowledgement of everyone in the team, not just the award winners.



September 2025 marked the third instalment of Vultures Day again held at our new home at Vermont Secondary.

The event saw approximately 500 people in attendance throughout the event and consisted of the following:

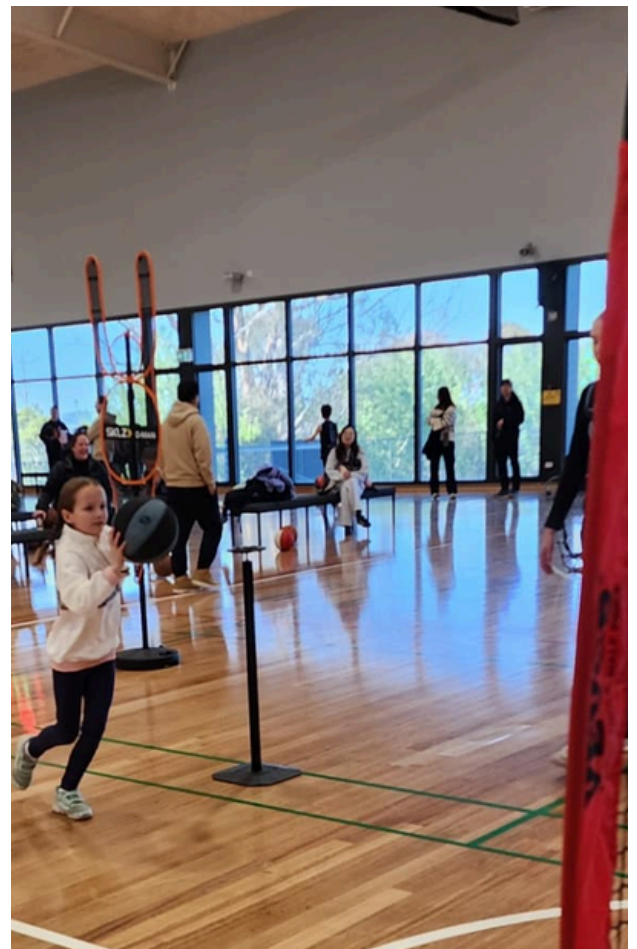
- End of season presentations
- Club Award Presentations
- Large presentation stage for team photos
- Shooting competitions for all age groups
- Skills challenge for all ages
- 5 on 5 Parents competition
- A BBQ and coffee van in full operation
- A silent auction of a signed South East Melbourne Phoenix singlet

David Felici

Family Engagment/ Fundraising

Vermont Vultures Basketball Club

A huge thank you to the committee members and club parents that volunteered for the day, these days are not possible without your support. Based on the success of the last few years Vultures day is here to stay, with event planning already in place for a return in 2026.



MEBA Update

MEBA Juniors continues to grow with the current Summer 25/26 season containing 991 junior teams approximately 7% growth (67 teams). An extra 67 teams equates to an extra 33 games per week, which has been complemented by additional courts coming online.

Our own Vermont Secondary Collage and Wantirna Secondary Collage now hosting games with the association securing long term arrangements with both venues. The association also is looking to bring a couple more stadiums on board over the next 12 months in preparation for the potential redevelopment.

On the development works the association is still progressing their bid for funding for the full redevelopment of Nunawading Stadium and have now secured commitments from both local and federal governments.

This equates to approximately 70% of the funding required as they continue to lobby the state Government for the remaining amount. The funding so far has allowed a more detailed planning to commence so the project is ready to launch if the State Funding is secured

Over the year MEBA has continued to strengthen both its behavioural and child safety framework wanting to set standards in this space rather than follow others.

New bylaws have come into play, fixed a number of issues with the old bylaws such as ball size and ring heights. It will also clarified rules around fill in players and transfers between clubs, with a goal to prevent the creation of super teams.



VICTORIAN JUNIOR BASKETBALL LEAGUE

The Victorian Junior Basketball League (VJBL) is a representative program that helps to develop talented players of all levels across Victoria. Vermont Vultures is a destination club for VJBL players, we had 141 GEBC players who played representative basketball in 2024-25, 106 males and 35 females. This represents approximately 20% of our GEBC players.

Vermont Vultures also had a number of players who received higher honours throughout the course of the year.

Harper Gibbs and Stephanie Finger were selected as part of Victoria's Future Development Program. Allanah Lucas, Poppy Curtis, Lenny Robinson, Cameron Rust, Jake Seo, Charlie Roberts, Oscar Hipfell were selected as part of the Victorian State Development Program. Zara Catto was selected as part of the State Performance Program.

Whilst Vulture Alumni Tom Dammers and Charlie Wilson were selected as part of the National Performance Program and have continued to represent both Victoria and Australia at junior levels

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gavin Catto". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

MEBA Representative

Vermont Vultures Basketball Club

Child Safety

Vermont Vultures Basketball Club remains firmly committed to Child Safety and will continue to work through the updated Child Safety Standards to ensure we create a safe, welcoming and inclusive environment.

The Child Safe Standards are 11 expected outcomes that all organisations who work with children need to ensure they are working to meet. The standards are:

1

Organisations establish a culturally safe environment in which the diverse and unique identities and experiences of Aboriginal children and young people are respected and valued.

2

Child safety and wellbeing is embedded in organisational leadership, governance and culture.

3

Children and young people are empowered about their rights, participate in decisions affecting them and are taken seriously.

4

Families and communities are informed and involved in promoting child safety and wellbeing.

5

Equity is upheld and diverse needs respected in policy and practice.

6

People working with children and young people are suitable and supported to reflect child safety and wellbeing values in practice.

7

Processes for complaints and concerns are child-focused.

8

Staff and volunteers are equipped with the knowledge, skills and awareness to keep children and young people safe through ongoing education and training.

9

Physical and online environments promote safety and wellbeing while minimising the opportunity for children and young people to be harmed.

10

Implementation of the Child Safe Standards is regularly reviewed and improved.

11

Policies and procedures document how the organisation is safe for children and young people.

Uniforms Update

A significant growth in team numbers also means a large increase in uniforms supplied!

Vermont Vultures continue to make available loan uniforms allowing new players to the club to hit the court sooner while they await their new uniform.

This process has seen more than 150 uniform sets loaned out to new Vultures over the past couple of seasons.

The Vultures Committee continues to support our newest players in Under 8's and Under 9's offering a free uniform with the club wearing the cost of purchase - breaking down the barriers for involvement in the sport. Over the past two seasons the club has funded more than 150 uniforms for new players in our youngest age group, ensuring they feel part of our community from day 1.

Loan uniforms ensure that Vermont are consistently presented on court in the right way from Round 1, minimizing admin issues.

Felicity Baker

Uniforms Coordinator

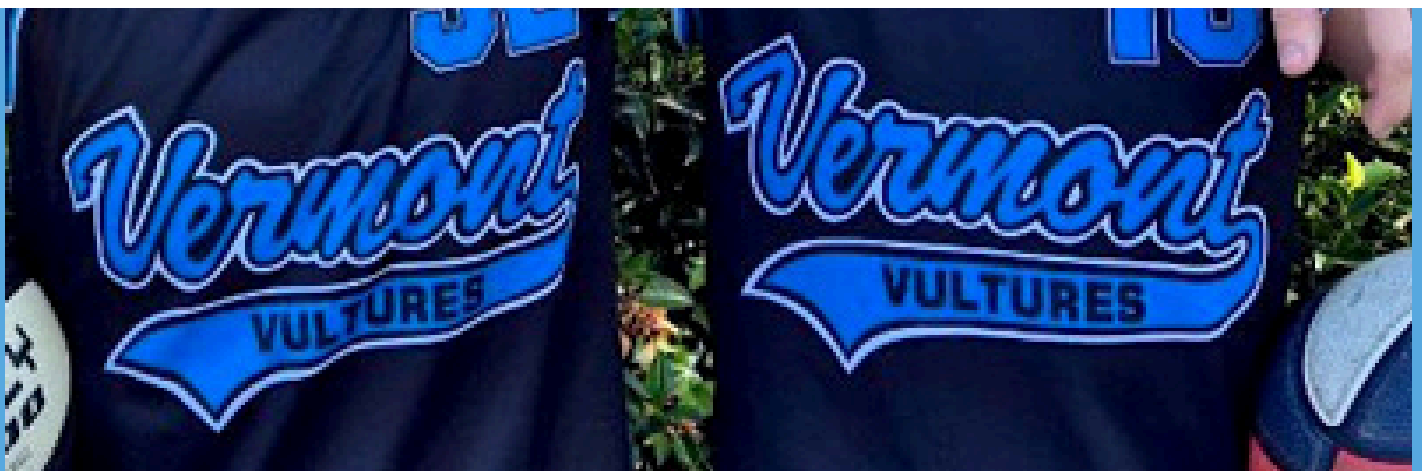
Vermont Vultures Basketball Club

Furthermore, we continue to offer a range of merchandise for players and supporters to represent the brand. The uniform shop being available for both sales and try-ons during Presentation Day has been a huge success and allows ease of access for those wanting to purchase.

The highlight of Presentation Day from a uniform standpoint was the first showing of the new Vermont Vultures Jibbits. Understanding the target market was key to working through our most recent addition!

A designated sub-committee is currently looking at girls cut singlets to ensure comfort is front of mind for all our players when they hit the court. On top of this we are working on a design for a warm-up top to hopefully be available in the coming months.

Vermont Vultures coaches once again present professionally in both seasons with the hoodies and polos being offered throughout the year. Our coaches are well supported with Coaches bags being readily available at season commencement



Communications

Vermont Vultures communication has increased in 2025 with email blasts providing more details around our sponsorships and benefits to the Vultures community through community partners. These communications include:

- * Intrepid Fitness community partnership
- * Redwood Cafe community partnership
- * SE Melbourne Phoenix Camps (Rep Ready & Holiday camp)
- * Vultures Skills Academy for players
- * Vultures Coach the Coach sessions
- * Yo Chi Vouchers for players

Some of our sessions have been so successful that they fill up within a week of notification.

There are circa 1,675 subscribers to the Vermont Vultures communications with an average email open rate of 65% for 2025.

Michael Willer

Communications

The club has continued to promote various partner initiatives via social platforms.

Our weekly Yo-Chi award winners were posted along with consistent promotions from our other key partners - SE Melbourne, Redwood & Intrepid.

We have seen growth across both Facebook and Instagram.

We will continue to share positive stories from within our community whilst also using social media channels as yet another communication tool for teams.

Email Subscribers	1675
Facebook Likes	1278
Instagram	678
Total Post Reach - Facebook and Instagram	29,000 views
Content Interactions - Facebook and Instagram	5,800 likes, reactions, saves & comments

Dyson Baker

Social Media



Awards & Recognition

AWARD WINNERS

Andrew Halsall Coaching Award

LINDA DE VINCENTIS

Jephcott Junior Coaching Award

JORDAN BAKER

Jack Nicey Spirit of Vultures Award

GAVIN CATTO & JOE REILLY

Jason Smith Male Player of the Year Award

ARCHER DEWAR

Carly Wilson Female Player of the Year Award

ZARA CATTO

SERVICE RECOGNITION

MEBA Board Member – Gavin Catto

Association Grading Rep – Ashley Brown

Association Grading Rep – Matt Cavell

Head Age Group Coordinator – Matt Cavell & Gavin Catto

Age Group Coordinators

Phil Thiel	Dyson Baker
Gavin Catto	Kerrie Batten
Kimi Hung	Matt Cavell
Jacq Adams	Alisha Tarenidis
Shannon Cornish	Megan Laing
Lucy Fortes	Sarah Thompson
Derrick Qin	Daniel McLeod
Fiona Hogan	Simone Rhode
Mark Dewar	Ashley Brown
David Felici	Joe Reilly





**Vermont Vultures
Basketball Club**