

## Our Beginnings

In 2006, LeeAnn Lesniewski & Erin Hogan started coaching a very special U13 girls club basketball team which ultimately resulted in the formation of Vision Basketball Academy (VBA). This inaugural VBA U13 team stayed together for 5 years and became recognized as one of the top teams in the city of Calgary as well as Alberta. When most of these players went to college/university, it was time to begin the cycle again. In the spring of 2012, VBA expanded their club to include another U13 team as well as a U15 team. From there, several Vision Basketball Academy teams have operated over the years with numerous players going on to play post-secondary basketball.

## Our Vision

Vision Basketball Academy (VBA) is a Basketball Program offering great opportunities and experiences to young basketball players. Our motto: "Vision Ignites the Passion that Inspires Excellence" clearly represents what we are all about.

At VBA we believe that basketball is a tremendous vehicle throughout life, and while we most definitely challenge and develop their basketball skill level, we also strive to ignite a passion for basketball in these young athletes to inspire a goal of achieving excellence in all aspects of life, both on and off of the basketball court.

VBA Club Teams are coached by top level basketball coaches. All VBA coaches have a background and experience in the game of basketball that you won't find anywhere else. Our philosophy is to hire coaches who are dedicated to their athletes and are here to promote the importance of work ethic, self-discipline, team work and above all else respect.

Respect between coach and player is an integral part of developing a successful basketball team. Coaches respect their athletes, athletes their coaches and both are expected to respect all other components of the game at all times, including officials, parents and opponents.

Our goal at VBA is that when a player finishes a season with a VBA Club Basketball team they will leave loving the game of basketball more than when they started, they will leave with a higher skill level, they will leave with new friends and an important factor, they will leave having had a positive experience with a coach who is an important role model in their life.

## Our Coaches

ERIN HOGAN – Erin played high school basketball in Okotoks (Foothills Composite) then played post-secondary basketball at both Mount Royal College and Lethbridge College. She has been coaching for 10 years, ranging from athletes 5 years old to college level athletes. She has been the Head Coach of competitive club teams for the past 8 spring seasons. Erin is currently completing her NCCP level 3.

LEEANN LESNIEWSKI – LeeAnn played high school basketball in Kelowna, BC then went on to continue her post-secondary career on a full ride scholarship to Grandview University in Iowa. Her career then continued at the professional level in Finland. LeeAnn has been a Head Coach of competitive club teams for the past 6 spring seasons and brings a wealth of knowledge and experience of 'the next level' that many can only dream of.

MARK HOGAN – Mark played University basketball for the Brandon University Bobcats. Upon graduating he became a teacher in Manitoba. He moved to Calgary in 1990 with his family to take on the position of Head Coach with the Mount Royal Men's Basketball team. In 1993 Mark started STARS Basketball, which soon became the largest youth basketball program in Canada. Since his coaching career began over 40 years ago Mark has coached players of all ages and skill levels. Currently coaching with Vision Basketball, Mark also trains and evaluates coaches in Alberta that are becoming NCCP certified. He offers one-on-one training and skill development sessions for players, works with community and school programs and is one of Alberta's highest trained Coach Developers with the NCCP – he is a Master Learning Facilitator and one of only a handful of instructors in Canada who is qualified to teach/facilitate all levels of the NCCP. Mark is an accredited FIBA coach and a Chartered Professional Coach (ChPC) – a designation recognized by the Coaches Association of Canada (CAC).

JANELLE BEKKERING – Janelle played her high school basketball in Taber, AB. She then went on to play her post-secondary basketball on a full scholarship to NCAA Div 1 Gonzaga. Janelle continued her playing career in Canada by playing on the Canadian National Team, and also played professionally in Belgium. After her playing career came to end she has coached with ABA's programs, Canada Basketball's TAS program, and is a valued member of the Vision Basketball Coaching team! Janelle is also an apprentice coach with the University of Calgary Dinos women's basketball team.

TED HARRISON – Ted played college basketball at Durham College in Oshawa, ON. After his playing career, Ted has coached at the college level for 30 years. His college coaching career includes stops at Durham College, Mount Royal College & SAIT. Ted has coached with Vision Basketball Academy for several years. His leadership, coaching expertise and ability to develop players have been a tremendous asset for VBA.

EMILY LARSON – Emily played her high school basketball in Springbank, Alberta. From there she went East to play at the University of Toronto for 2 seasons before coming home to play her final 3 years at Mount Royal University. At MRU Emily was a league All-Star, team captain and an Academic All-Canadian. Emily has coached competitive players in skills academies, summer camps, one-on-one skills training, and school Phys Ed programs. Emily has recently been an Assistant Coach at MRU and after becoming a coach with Vision Basketball Academy in 2014 still remains a valued member of the Vision Basketball Coaching team!

SARAH LARSON – ???

KIM EDWARDS – ???