



PANGOS EASTER CLASSIC

Las Vegas, April 24, 2019 --- Veritas basketball program sent their 16U and 17U international team to the very prestigious Pangos Easter Classic in Las Vegas this weekend and came out with a very impressive overall 9-1 record. The tournament had perennial AAU powerhouse programs such as: Belmont Shores, Vegas Elite EYBL, MB Elite (NBA player Marvin Bagley III sponsored team), and LeBron James very own SFG.

The Veritas 16U came into the tournament as a relatively unknown dark horse but left with a 3-1 record with their only loss coming to LeBron James' SFG team who has multiple top 100 players in their class, including Sky Clark. The rest of the Veritas 16U wins came with double digit point victories against high caliber teams. The team is hardly impressive at 1st glance and barely conjure any oohs and awes in their lay-up line, until game play begins and ultimately clinch EVERYONE'S attention especially the opposing team. Led by all state point guard Mikey Ficher (5'11 2021) who has an uncanny agile mastery of the ball, scores the ball at every level, and sets the table for his team. Guard Daniel Esparza (6'2 2021) the team's leading scorer is proving he can score the ball with the best of them, shot the ball at an impressive efficiency anywhere on the court while improving his ability to finish in the paint. Finally, Marqui Worthy (6'3 2022) being the youngest on the roster but showing he's the big brother of the team. Unstoppable once he commits to his drive to the basket, led the team in rebounding, and guarded every position. The rest of the team is a mix of gritty team players who are finding their niche in contributing to the team when and where they can. This newly formed team has mustered a chemistry that is very rare this quickly. The teams obvious care for one another, complete unselfishness, and absence of ego vs one another is a recipe for a very bright future.

As for an even bigger dark horse and relatively unknown bunch the 17U international team came off a tough overtime loss to Paul Pierce's The Truth 17U team in the last tournament they played in. Proving they are learning from the process the Veritas 17U team is composed of players mostly from Latin countries and one player from France. The newly assembled fun loving team has bonded in their personal friendships to one another but are also gelling and



improving as a basketball team on the court. The team ended up undefeated and won the very competitive and talent rich 17U division. Key players and contributions include:

-Deiman Reyes 2021, man child and athletic 6'9 forward/center who is improving by the day on his timing and skill level, had very impressive put back dunks and steadily improved his ability to block shots

-Elijah Scranton 2019, 6'6 wing/forward showed his big game composure and strength to the basket, was huge in semis when it mattered the most

-Malvin Payero 2020, 6'1 point guard is a constant vocal leader and high competitive nature showed dividends throughout the tournament

-Julio Rodriguez 2019, 6'0 guard showed his ability to be an elite scorer, scoring a team high for the tournament of 28 and hitting huge 3's in the semis vs Belmont Shore

-Luis Riascos 2019, 6'5 wing exhibited his swiss army mix of athleticism, length, and skill set but showed up huge defensively vs Belmont Shores' highly talented guards

The team's set of coaches, led by mastermind George Zedan, widely known and respected coach throughout the prep/AAU circuit, the very capable Bryan Sanchez who has been Zedan's right hand man for many years and led the 17U international team as their head coach, and recently added X's & O's genius and NBA trainer Randy Oronoz who sat at the helm for the 16U team, and finally Jason Chacon who has been a highly regarded coach from the area for many years and assisted as coach for both teams this weekend. The collective high IQ, prideful competitive spirit, and sincere care/regard they have for every one of their players is absolutely second to none. The Veritas high school program has been established for a short period of time but has made huge waves on the circuit and is not a team you want to see in your bracket. The program culture of accountability of all members, uncompromising toughness, team first mentality, and a relentless defensive identity is ready for all comers, anytime anywhere!! It's the Veritas Way.

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